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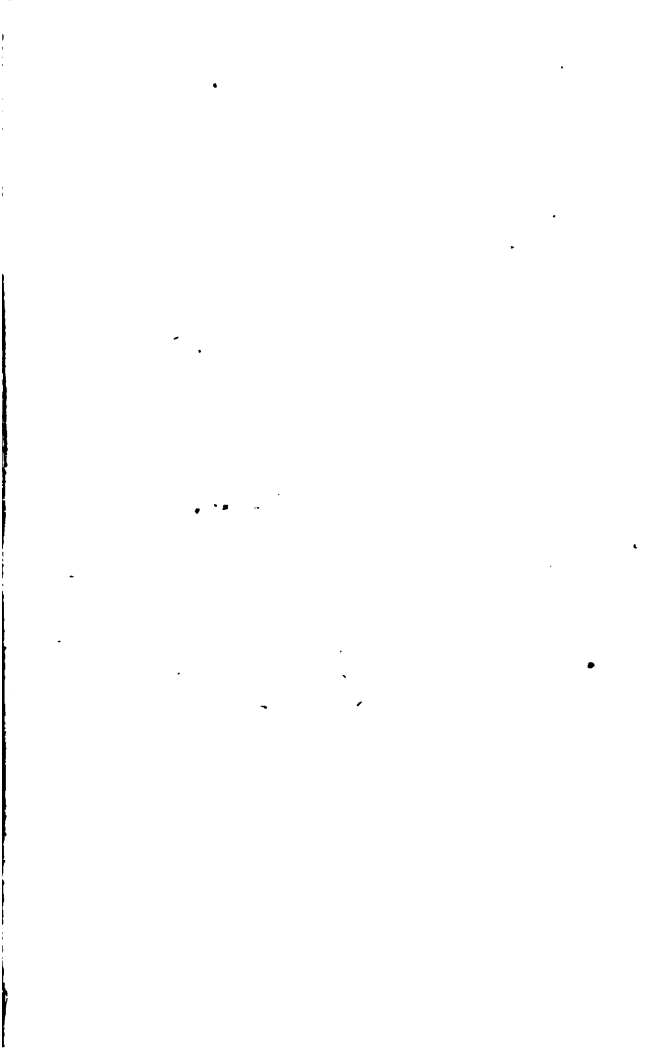
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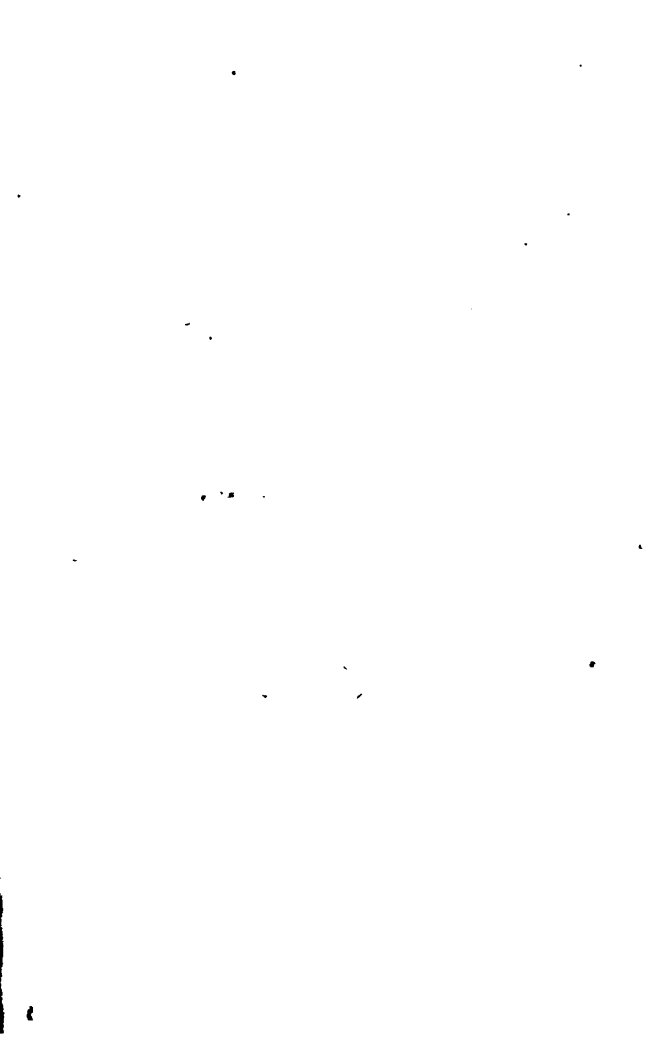
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# THE SARK GUIDE;

COMPRISING

AN HISTORICAL NOTICE OF THE ISLAND,

AND

A DESCRIPTION OF ITS ROCK-SCENERY, SILVER MINES,  
GEOLOGY, CLIMATE, STATISTICS, &c., &c.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

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*"Gutta cavat lapidem, non vi sed sæpe cadendo."*

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BY G. W. JAMES, M.R.C.S., &c.

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ILLUSTRATED WITH A MAP AND SEVERAL ENGRAVINGS.

GUERNSEY:  
HENRY BROUARD, STAR-OFFICE.

LONDON:  
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS.

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MLCCCXLV.





*[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]*

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## PREFACE.

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UNTIL within these late years the island of Sark was scarcely known except by name, a few only from Guernsey and Jersey occasionally visiting its shores for the sake of a short marine excursion. The widened intercourse, both commercial and social, which now subsists between England and the Channel Isles, has brought many tourists hither, who have discovered objects worthy of contemplation and examination,—objects of rare beauty and interest in their peculiar sphere. Hence each succeeding summer an increased number of visitors have touched on these rugged shores, most of whom have quitted them with feelings of admiration.

For the purpose of enabling those who may in future visit Sark to examine its natural beauties with facility and safety, the following pages are presented to their consideration. The Author, having made copious notes of all

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he thought worthy of observation as a record of scenes affording him great delight, has endeavoured to combine interest with utility as far as so limited a work will permit. It will be easily seen that the materials are from nature, most of the impressions having been taken in the course of various rambles dictated by the genius of the spot, the granite blocks affording a convenient writing-table, polished by the great lapidary, the ocean's wave : and, as the pencil fails to portray real size and colour, a little license may also be allowed for more or less lively illustration by the pen.

For the notices of the historical and other antiquities in the APPENDIX, the Author is under obligation to George Metivier and F. C. Lukis, esquires, of Guernsey.

Whatever are its deficiencies, or whatever its merits, this little work is submitted to the public eye with the hope that, whilst perambulating the boldest and most striking rock scenery in the Channel Islands, the stranger may derive both information, amusement, and assistance.

*Sark, May 17, 1845.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

---

## CHAPTER I.

Introductory remarks, and reasons for a GUIDE TO SARK—a place of temporary resort—not like other watering places—its sanatory influence—hints to tourists—resident surgeon—economy of Sark—lodgings—communication with Guernsey. . . . . 5

---

## CHAPTER II.

Early history of Sark—first known era, a settlement of monks—historical facts appertaining to it as one of the Norman Isles—departure of the monks—stratagem by the Flemish, and complete depopulation of Sark—second era, French invasion and fortification of the island—surprise and destruction by the Flemish—another attempt by the French—third era, settlement of Hélier De Carteret, seigneur of St. Ouen, Jersey—civilization and improvements—progressing state of improvement. . . . . 11

---

## CHAPTER III.

Aspect of Sark from the sea—passage from Guernsey—Creux harbour—first view of the interior of Sark—its cheerful appearance in the spring . . . . . 30

---

## CHAPTER IV.

Excursions over the island—the Coupée—the Pot—Little Sark—Dixcart valley and bay—Creux Terrible and Pointe Terrible—Havre Gosselin—Gouliot Caves—the Boutiques—Port du Moulin—Pointe du Nez, Eperquerie, and the Eastern shore—Ile des Marchands, or

Bréchou—Port-ès-Sées—geological remarks—equestrian exercise—Sunday in Sark .....	35
--	----

---

## CHAPTER V.

Mines—minerals—geology .....	61
------------------------------	----

---

## CHAPTER VI.

Formation of soil—agriculture—produce—general observations .....	69
--	----

---

## CHAPTER VII.

Laws, customs, &c., peculiar to the island .....	76
--	----

---

## CHAPTER VIII.

Climate, advantageous to health and freedom—discipline, or training of the body, recommended. ....	89
--	----

---

## CHAPTER IX.

Miscellaneous—earthquakes—tides and winds—luminous sea—Scottish Sark—Herm—capabilities of Sark, and projected improvements.....	103
---	-----

---

## CHAPTER X.

Though last, not the least important to visitors, and ought to be read first; containing hints for the passage to Sark—accommodations—provisions—boat excursions—most retired walks.....	113
--	-----

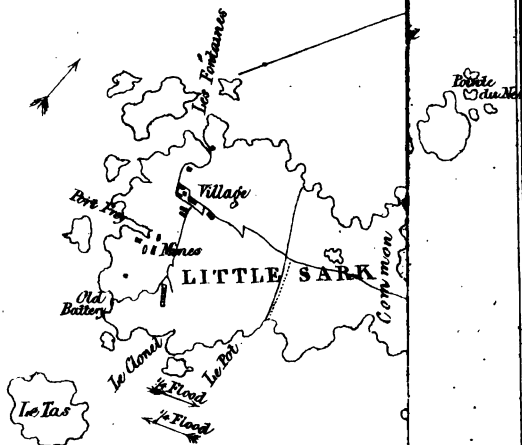
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## APPENDIX.

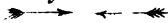
Roman and visigothic insular coins—Helerius, the martyr—Reign of Edward III.—Silver-lead mines—Ile des Marchands—Laws and customs—Medical statistics—Tides—Freeholders .....	121
--	-----

Mano a Mano

# MAP of SARK.



The Course of the Tides  
indicated by Arrows

Thus   
1/2 Flood 1/2 Ebb

# SARK GUIDE.

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## CHAPTER I.

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Refinement, taste, and art, so common grown,  
We seek for change the wild and the sublime  
In mountains, caves, and torrents, there to drown  
In sweet abstraction all the cares of time.  
The solitude of Sark's encircled shore,  
(Nine miles of rugged rock as cincture grand),  
Whether in cliff or *creux*, delighteth more  
Than finished art, the work of human hand.

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SUMMER excursions to the Channel Islands having of late years become fashionable, and increased by the facilities afforded by steam navigation, it is desirable that Sark, like all other frequented places, should have its Guide, without which the tourist, who makes but a limited sojourn, must in all probability depart without seeing many places and knowing many circumstances of interest in the island. The object of the few following pages is to assist the visitor in his rambles, by a description of the leading features of attraction,—to point out the most proper, and indeed the only time when the caverns and other curiosities



on the shores can be safely viewed, for, being cut off by the tide, it is hazardous to explore them in ignorance or alone,—to economise time by making the whole tour of the island in two or three days or less,—and to save the stranger, who may not speak French, the trouble of making enquiries of persons who would not understand him, and who, though residing their whole lives amid rocks, and cliffs, and water-worn caves, have but little idea of the rude grandeur which surrounds them : in short, these pages are intended to render a visit to the isle of Sark as complete, as agreeable, and as little fatiguing as possible. Several tourists who had seen the passes of the Pyrenees, the romantic scenery of Switzerland, and the Scottish Highlands, &c., have declared that the rock scenery of Sark, when actually inspected by descent or from the sea, is both unique and imposing ; and there is no doubt, now it is becoming so much better known, that it will be rarely passed over by travellers, or by those who are located in the Channel Isles.

Of all the appendages to Great Britain, however remote, the island of Sark has been less noticed than any other ; and it is only within the last five or six years, since the working of the silver mines, that it has been frequented by strangers in pursuit either of health, novelty, or retirement. To the geo-

logist, the mineralogist, and the artist, the grand scenes which Sark exhibits of "nature unadorned" must, at certain periods of tide and season, afford the highest interest; whilst the moral philosopher must be charmed with the simple state of society and customs, handed down with but little deviation through many generations. For abstract study and the efforts of inventive genius, no place can be better adapted; the mind is free, the social chain is broken, or may be so, for a time, and the thrill of health warms the imagination. The island has already been visited by men of science, amongst whom are Doctor MacCulloch, whose geological researches are so well known; and Doctor Martin Barry, of London, in the summer of 1841, for several weeks made his studio here, and prosecuted his profound microscopic observations with labour and success.

But Sark is not a place congenial to the taste of all summer tourists from its deficiency of those luxuries and refinements, and fashionable amusements which are to be found in all watering places in England and on the Continent; there are no carriages, nor is there any place of public and general resort. To those whose minds are only kept in motion by the aid of others, or by the attractions of the billiard-table and the news-room, Sark might, after a cursory view, prove a source of *ennui*, notwithstanding its health-inspiring, spirit-stirring

sea breezes, almost calculated to rouse the most phlegmatic citizen, convert the man of business into a sentimentalist, and induce him to linger long with nature in these her wildest haunts. Those who desire to be thoroughly acquainted with the peculiar beauties of this little isle must not content themselves with merely promenading the roads, or scrambling along the edges of the cliffs; they must descend those parts accessible with the proper aid, viz., a strong staff, from six to eight feet in length, with a small hook or grappling-iron attached to one end; and a strong piece of rope for one person to render assistance to another in case of timidity, is also very desirable. Some sights, such as the *Gouliot* caves, and the *Boutiques*, which appear like so many vaulted chambers, and justly deserve the notice of strangers, with other caverns and fissures excavated by the hand of time, may best be viewed by taking a boat and cruising amongst the rocks, but never without a skilful Sarkman as pilot, the navigation immediately round the island being extremely difficult and dangerous to an inexperienced person. There is one piece of advice which should be impressed on all visitors not very robust, which is, that, if possible, they economise their strength by riding to the places of descent, and making that the spot of rendezvous for the pic-nic dinner; otherwise the pleasure will be a toil,

tending to exhaust the spirits, and pall rather than sharpen the appetite.

It may here be observed as important to visitors in the event of sickness or accident, that a surgeon now resides on the island, which was not the case until the year 1840. Previous to that period, when medical aid was required it was necessary to send to Guernsey ; consequently, there must have been unavoidably a great, and perhaps dangerous, delay, —besides being dependant on wind and tide. The fact of this insulated spot having always been *without medical advice* is very remarkable, and speaks much for the general healthy condition of the inhabitants, owing to their agricultural life, and the hardy habits in which they have been born and bred up ; but the population having increased to near 800, by the residence of other families, and the employment of English miners, it was necessary that a qualified medical man should reside in the island.

There is another feature peculiar to Sark, which, in pointing out its advantages, should not be omitted, as, with many who desire a change for the re-establishment of health or other causes, it is sometimes a grand desideratum ; this is economy, which in attire and living are not only appropriate, but unavoidable, for, except on the ordinary wants, there is no means of spending money. The island

has now a better supply of provisions than it had, and it is to be hoped will still increase in those accommodations at hand, without which the visitor may find great inconvenience; but fresh meat, wine and spirits, fruit and vegetables, are not to be purchased, and must be obtained from Guernsey. During the summer months, say from May to October, the farm-houses, as well as all cottages in which there may be a decent lodging-room, are prepared and left free for the occupancy of visitors, furnished, but without attendance, as daily servants may be obtained on the island. In consequence of the number of houses being limited, and there being no regular boarding-house or hotel at present established, it is recommended, if possible, to enquire for and secure such lodgings as may be most convenient. At the Sark-office, Quay, Guernsey, information may be obtained.

Communication with Guernsey is almost daily in summer. Three cutters constantly ply to and fro when the weather permits, viz., the *Lady*, the *Mary*, and the *Brilliant*; the fare is one shilling. Either vessel may be freighted exclusively for ten or twelve shillings. With a favourable wind the passage may be made in an hour and a half or two hours, although in calm weather it may be five or six hours, or even more. The crews are civil, attentive, and extremely good and careful seamen.

## CHAPTER II.

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IN an historical point of view, this little island affords but small matter for detail ; but the few facts which have been handed down deserve to be briefly noticed. These rocks, which have stood the test of ages, which have grown grey and dark beneath the smitings of the wrathful tide, and whose caverned foundations re-echo ceaselessly the thunderings of old ocean's roar,—this spot must inspire some curiosity to the reflecting traveller, who, on viewing the present condition of society, is naturally led to glance retrospectively at the successive mutations incidental to the lapse of time. The first traces of the history of every nation are rude and imperfect, and there is always full scope for the imagination of the antiquarian to revel amid coins, and names, and inscriptions, or to ponder over the unchiseled stone or the rude hieroglyphic—those scattered wrecks of history which alone remain to perpetuate the existence of nations, or the achievements of individuals mighty in their day.

The history of Sark (or as in the old records, Sercq and Cercq) is necessarily much broken,

as, at different periods, the island was for centuries uninhabited. What is known, authors have extracted from the ancient archives (now preserved at Coutances) of the isles of Jersey and Guernsey, Sark being one of the cluster of Norman or Channel Isles, by whose revolutions it has at times been more or less affected. Those islands formed a part of the territory of the Unelli, near the future Constantia or Coutances. It was Viridovix, king of the Unelli, whom the Armorican league chose for their head, on the eve of their memorable defeat by Cæsar's lieutenant, Sabinus. From a nearly perfect series of Roman coins turned up in Guernsey, Jersey, and Sark, a permanent intercourse between the Romans and their inhabitants, from the time of Caligula to that of Honorius, might be plausibly deduced. Even at a period still more remote, the existence of some inhabitants is conjectured from the discovery of various cromlechs, tumuli, and caves—monuments of Druidic barbarism; but a veil of darkness envelopes this remote antiquity, and it is from traces of similarity of language that modern historians deduce, as an undeniable truth, that all the surrounding nations sprang from one parent stock denominated Celtic, as also from the existing analogy of their laws and customs.

It does not appear that any particular mention is made in history of Sark until after the

year 557, when, as we learn from St. Samson's authentic Acts, that holy Briton, the son of Amun by a second marriage with Saint Ann, daughter of King Meuric ap Tudor, obtained an interview with King Childebert at Paris. His signature of 'Samson, a sinner,' is recorded among that of other bishops at the synod held that year in the royal city.\* Having obtained from the German sovereign, Childebert, a grant of these small islands,† this good shepherd visited two of them, accompanied by his kinsman Judual, duke of the northern Gallican Britons, and a selection of monks from the community of Pentale, in the future Normandy.‡ Thus did the inscrutable ways of divine Providence direct the steps of a christian bishop to these islands. St. Samson was bishop of Dol, in Brittany, to which diocese the French king added Jersey, Guernsey, and the isles contiguous. His successor, St. Maglorius, also visited these islands, and was very successful in converting Count Lojesco and his foreign garrison to christianity.¶ About the year 565 he founded a monastery in Jersey,§ and another in Sark, selected, no doubt, as a spot most congenial to devotion

\* Magdeburg Centurists.

† Life of Saint Samson, by Baldric, bishop of Dol; MS.—Mémoire sur l'Origine des Bretons, par l'Abbé Gallet.

‡ Ancient Acts of Saint Samson.—Mémoires pour servir de preuves à l'Histoire de Bretagne, tome i., col. 196.

¶ Acts of St. Maglorius.—Pagan northmen in the French king's pay.

§ *Ib.*, and 1st century of the Benedictine Acts, by Duchesne, tome iii., page 344.



and retirement. This priory is recorded to have been in existence eight hundred years after, but no trace of it now remains.\*

At a still earlier period of the same century, it is true that a distinguished recluse of the forest of Scissy, Paternus, afterwards bishop of Avranches, left his monastic retreat at Ansion, in Poitou, to enjoy more perfect solitude in an island of the *pagus Constantinus*, or territory of Coutances.† Still it was Hélier, a disciple of St. Marculphus in the woodland recesses of Nantueil, who probably first preached the gospel at Jersey, and sealed it with his blood,—which last event nearly coincides with the date of Samson's pastoral visit.‡

Yet, strange to tell, the fact that the early inhabitants of these isles were Britons, and of the same race as their instructors, St. Samson and St. Maglorius, has been not only overlooked, but intentionally suppressed. We learn, nevertheless, from a curious appendix to the Chronicle of Fontenelle, that St. Geroaldus, bishop of Evreux and Abbot of Fontenelle, was sent by Charlemagne, in the year 787, on a mission to the Amwarith, or defender, of the principal island near the territory of Coutances, and that its population consisted of '*gens Bri-*

\* The site is supposed to be that of the present *Moinerie*.—Entry in the Remembrancer's office, quoted by Falle, edition of 1693.

† Life of St. Paternus in Surius's Collection.

‡ Lives of St. Marculphus and St. Hélier,

*tonum'* still.\* Indeed it is more than probable that this was the case long after, since in 869 the earldom or county of *Le Cotentin*, of which these isles formed a geographical fraction, was given to Solomon, king of the Britons, by the emperor Charles the Bald.† At the end of the ninth century it was still in the hands of the Breton duke, Alan the Great;‡ and it was only in 933 that Raoul, king of the French, by the terms of a treaty still extant, surrendered it to William Long-sword—not to Rollo, as hasty annalists have so often inaccurately pretended.|| Various fragments of the future Normandy were thus successively wrested by Rollo, the Norwegian, and his descendants, from the pusillanimous sovereigns of feudal France.§ William the Conqueror, who styled himself, with galling yet candid arrogance, the patron or advocate of the Normans, and the king of the English,¶ left the former in full possession of their ancient customs when he enlarged his paternal domains by the conquest of a mighty kingdom. Even while treating of that remote period which historians seem agreed to consider

\* Appendix to the Chronicle of Fontenelle, published in the *Neustria Pia*, and in Baluze's *Capitularies*.

† Acts of St. Launomar, 4th century. *Benedictines*, part 2. —Abbé Gallet's Notes on Dom Morice, col. 972.

‡ Chronicle of Nantes, anno 889.—*Preuves de l'Histoire de Bretagne*, par Morice, tome i., col. 143.

§ Chronicle of Frodoard, anno 931 and 933.

¶ See their enumeration in Licquet's accurate *Histoire de Normandie*.

¶ Fac-simile of the Conqueror's Seal in Speed's History.

as too barbarous for particular notice, namely, the interval between Rollo's conquest and William's, there is no reason for assuming that *all* these islands were complete wildernesses. The contrary is evident from the consoling fact that monks and nuns, even then, had the means of giving large tracts of land to Mont St. Michel,—some of which donations are confirmed by the Dukes Richard II. and III. of that name, in the tenth century.\* The islands were then removed from the see of Dol to that of Coutances, under which they continued till the completion of the Reformation in Queen Elizabeth's time, when they were united to the diocese of Winchester, to which they still pertain.

The possession of Normandy and these isles became the unhappy source of much contention after the death of William the Conqueror, until the year 1106, when the conquest was finally completed by Henry I. of England, whose son, Prince William, having been to Normandy to receive the homage of the barons of that duchy, was wrecked on his return, not upon the Casket rocks, which are within only a short distance of these isles, as Falle erroneously stated in his first edition, but on a large and well-known rock close to Barfleur, as "they gonne," that is, began "to meve out of the havene."† Such

\* Chartulary of Mont St. Michel.

† A prose Chronicle appended to an Historical Roem in the Herald's office, composed in the reign of Henry VI.—*Hearne's Robert*.

is the unanimous report of the elder historians, who add, that the only man saved from the wreck swam back to Barfleur. In the reign of King John, Normandy was severed from the English crown, and re-united to France; but not so these islands, which is a matter of surprise, they being so contiguous to the Norman shores, and dependent on the duchy. In order to secure these remains of his Norman appanage, King John raised fortifications providing for their defence, and, as appears from a document called the 'Constitutions of King John,' laid the foundation of the still-existing privileges of these islands: he also established the royal courts of Jersey and Guernsey, for the determination of such causes as were not of sufficient importance to be brought before the King and Council, and for the adjustment of those which could not be settled in the inferior local courts of the smaller islands. In this and the following reign, the French made several efforts to regain possession of these isles, but without success, until in the reign of Edward III., A.D. 1338, when Guernsey was captured, but afterwards re-taken with great loss to the invaders.

About the year 1349, the monks, who had for so many centuries made Sark their place of retreat, left it altogether. During the period of a monastic residence, we may imagine that some sort of order was kept up among the inha-

bitants in the island ; but after their departure the few remaining individuals gave themselves up entirely to piracy and every lawless pursuit, decoying vessels by false beacon lights to their rocky shores, and then plundering them. These exploits became so extensively injurious and annoying to the merchants and traffickers in these seas, that, in order to expel this horde of marauders, in 1356 an English vessel from Rye, in Hampshire, by the stratagem of a pretended funeral, succeeded in extirpating them. The scheme holds somewhat of a parallel with the legend of the Trojan horse, as successfully designed, but which proved no palladium to their security. An account of the treacherous exploit is given by Falle in his History of Jersey.\* A vessel touched at Sark, the crew of which feigned the death of their captain, and besought of the inhabitants permission to inter the body in the chapel of their island. This request was granted, but on condition that all who came on shore should be unarmed : to this they willingly agreed, and succeeded in landing a coffin, filled, not with a corpse, but with arms, which was carefully deposited in the chapel. Finding this part of their scheme had taken effect, the intruders rushed out

\* Historians differ as to the period of this event, some relating it as happening at a much later date when the island had a second surprise and was laid waste ; but the oldest authorities refer it to the period above alluded to, and it seems the most admissible.

upon the handful of unsuspecting inhabitants, most of whom had, during the supposed interment, gone down to plunder the vessel; the remaining few found were put to the sword. They then retired, leaving the island to become a wilderness.

Rolling years saw the sun rise to illuminate this wild unbeaten track, and its setting rays to gild the western shore—alone and undisturbed the sea birds shrieked their hoarse notes as they floated over the waves from cliff to cliff—for two hundred years no hum of human voices cheered this solitary spot—the book of nature lay open with no eye to read it—that light which had so early dawned had long been extinguished—not even a gloomy anchorite was here! But, at the close of this long dark vista of years, a new epoch broke in upon Sark. In the year 1549, there being war between Edward VI. and Henry II. of France, a descent was made on this island by eleven French gallies, which anchored at the *Eperquerie* and landed four hundred men, who took quiet possession of the island, there being neither force or inhabitant to oppose. They erected two fortresses, one at the north, near the *Eperquerie*, in Great Sark, and the other near the *Coupée*, in Little Sark.\* But the almost starving and desolate condition in which these adventurers found themselves,

\* The site and form of the latter are still very distinct.

(for at this period it does not appear that the garrison was supplied from the produce of the island) soon wearied them, so that after a short time the greatest part of them quitted it, leaving the little garrison under the care of one Captain Bruel, in a very weak and defenceless state. On their retreat from Sark, the commander of the French gallies determined on making a surprise on the English vessels which were then lying in the Guernsey roads, and accordingly attacked them. Though unprepared for this descent, the English defended themselves so valiantly that the French gallies were completely worsted, and they were obliged to return to Sark disabled and shattered; but not being able to refit there, they proceeded to St. Malo. Passing by Jersey they endeavoured to land, but they were desperately repulsed, and at length were glad to get under weigh and steer for St. Malo, where they remained during fifteen days for the adjustment of their little fleet, and then returned to Sark. To make another attempt on the coast of Jersey was too great a risk, so they stealthily attacked by night the governor's boat, which had only just returned richly laden with coin and merchandise. In this enterprise they were more successful, and bore it away with them as a prize to Sark, and from thence to France again, leaving Captain Bruel and a few men at Sark, who retained peaceable

possession of the island five or six years. At the end of that period some Flemish vessels came to Guernsey to make an attack on the French who still held the isle of Sark; and as the number of these had gradually diminished through poverty and *ennui*, the capture was not a very difficult one. They embarked in their *chaloupes*, and with the aid of some Guernseymen, as pilots, landed at Little Sark in the middle of the night; the French were all asleep, no watch or defence whatever was kept up, and the fortresses and men were consequently easily taken.\* Thus a few Flemings took possession of Sark, who presented it to Queen Mary, expecting considerable reward or advantage; but she gave them no recompense, or indeed heeded the gift at all, upon which the dissatisfied Flemings renounced the island. Shortly after, Sir Hugh Powlet, governor of Jersey, in order that the French might not return to Sark, caused the fortresses to be razed to the ground, and again was the island left uninhabited. In spite of this, however, the French thought it worth making one more attempt to regain an island which might prove of future advantage to them in the channel. The *Seigneur* of Glatney, in Normandy, seeing how it had been lost by Captain Bruel without any defence, and that the island was without inhabitants, preferred

\* Vide *Chroniques des Isles*, chap. xxiv. xxxiii.



a petition to the King of France, that if it were granted to him and to his heirs he would colonise it at his own expense. The grant was made, and a number of persons were sent by the *Seigneur* of Glatney to the isle of Sark to inhabit it; but his scheme was defeated, for, not long after, war broke out between the Queen of England and the King of France, in consequence of which the new settlers returned to their country, leaving the island as they found it.

It was not, however, the will of God that the soil of this now fertile island should for ever remain unbroken, but that in due time peace, plenty, and domestic happiness should be found in it, and that prayer and praise from many a true christian heart should ascend from this islet coast. What may be very properly termed the third era in the history of Sark was now about to commence by a more permanent settlement in the island than had ever before been attempted. In 1563, Hélier De Carteret,\* *seigneur* of St. Ouen, in Jersey, seeing that Sark was still considered a desirable acquisition by the French, and of what ultimate disadvantage it might hereafter prove to the other islands

\* "Les Seigneurs de St. Ouen ont été si longtemps du nom de De Carteret, que Philippe De Carteret, qui en était seigneur en 1585, était le 59<sup>e</sup> seigneur de la dite Seigneurie de St. Ouen, tous de père en fils du dit nom de De Carteret, ce qui est une antiquité bien noble, et fort notable, tellement que à grande difficulté pourrait-on trouver une si ancienne."—*Chroniques*.

were they eventually to gain and keep possession of it—also that, if left in its present rude and uncultivated state, its rocks and caves would, as in former times, serve as retreats for the pirates and robbers who infested these seas—conceived the idea of colonising the island, and of attempting to bring it to a state of cultivation. The *Seigneur* of St. Ouen made known his views to the commissioners of Queen Elizabeth at Guernsey, empowered to act for the crown, from whom he obtained a grant of the island in perpetuity, at a yearly rent of fifty *sols tournois*. With this encouragement he commenced his extremely difficult undertaking; and his lady, who appears to have been a woman of extraordinary courage and capacity, joined him heartily in the completion of his laudable scheme. Accompanied by his adventurous lady, the *Seigneur* of St. Ouen removed to Sark, and, in spite of all privations and impediments, resolved to use every method to render the island fruitful and profitable. When the new *Seigneur* of Sark and his lady first set foot on their new domain, there was no house to receive them; but they were content for covering with the ruins of a little chapel, until one was constructed, which was covered with fern to keep out the wind and rain.\* Their suite consisted principally of husbandmen and servants to

\* The site of the present parsonage.

clear the ground, which was completely over-spread with thorns and brambles, and to labour hard in its cultivation. There was then no harbour, and it being necessary to import stone, wood, cattle, grain, implements, and, in short, everything which was requisite from Jersey, it was attended with infinite toil and trouble; but, by degrees, their perseverance was repaid by the abundance of everything which the island produced. The *seigneur* also appointed a minister who should reside on the island, to preach the gospel after the Reformed Church, and ever since the Word of God has been taught, by a succession of ministers, to this small and simple flock.\*

The *Seigneur* of St. Ouen having now established good order in the new colony, went to the court of Queen Elizabeth, to whom and to the privy council he exhibited a chart of the island, with a detail of his plans and success, in which her majesty took great interest and pleasure; and, as a reward for his fidelity and attachment, besides confirming the grant of the island to him and to his heirs for ever by patent, she ordered to be given from the tower of London twelve new pieces of artillery, well mounted and supplied, for the defence of the island.

A persevering and industrious race of men gradually produced the features of civilization

\* *Chroniques des Isles*, chap. xxxiv.





Mar 24, 1890

To the Hon. Mr. Richard J. Smith

in the neglected isle of Sark, by the erection of forty substantial farm-houses, with a division of the land into estates or *sieurships*, to be held from father to son in perpetuity ; the formation of roads leading from one to the other ; the planting of orchards ; erection of windmills ; and facility of access to the little harbour called the *Creux*, by excavating a road through an intervening rock for the more easy transmission of cargo to and from the boats. No manufactures were established, consequently the colony was considered of little account, and did not increase much in numbers. The islanders occupied themselves entirely in husbandry and fishing, by which they obtained a sufficient supply for their limited wants, as also to barter with the larger isles for clothing, implements, &c. The *seigneurs* made only a temporary *séjour* with them of a few months occasionally, and their communications with the other islands were not very frequent : thus left almost entirely to themselves, it is not surprising that civilization, instead of making the rapid advancement which we see in our own times, should stagnate from the want of impetus, even should it not take an absolutely retrograde movement.

It is natural to conclude that things remained in this state up to a late period, for no very prominent notice appears of Sark in the history of many succeeding generations. During the

civil wars in England between Charles and his parliament, the peace of the Channel Isles was greatly subverted, and Sark, having been twice recovered by a parliamentary force, troops were maintained there at the expense of Guernsey, in addition to the native defence of a stipulated number of able-bodied men fit to bear arms; but it does not appear that any new fortifications were raised upon the island. On the cessation of these hostilities, commissioners were appointed by a committee of the lords and commons to re-establish tranquillity in the affairs, both civil and military, of the Channel Isles, and, in 1652, Mr. Peter Carey was empowered to visit Sark for that especial purpose. In the capitulation made by the royalists at Jersey to Cromwell, in 1651, it is thus mentioned in the terms of the second item: "that it shall be left to the parliament's good pleasure to allow the *seigneur* of St. Ouen to compound for the island of Sark." In the succeeding reigns, Sark is but casually noticed in history, but has shared in all the privileges and immunities granted at all times to these islands.

For many generations the De Carterets held the lordship of Sark, till the beginning of the eighteenth century, when it passed into the family of Milner, bishop of Gloucester, from whom it was purchased, in 1730, by Mrs. Susanna Le Gros, *alias* Le Pelley, and

ever since it has continued in the line of the Le Pelley family, of whom there have been seven *seigneurs*. Of the last captain of Sark, of the Le Gros family, there is a curious epitaph, in prose and verse, on a tombstone lately renovated, in the churchyard of St. Mary *du Cdtel*, at Guernsey. To our respected bailiff, John Guille, esq., of St. George, Guernsey, we are indebted for the restoration of this ancient tomb of a kinsman of the Rohais Guilles.\*

It seems that the inhabitants of Sark were up to a late period in a rude and half civilized condition, as some of the present old Sarkese describe the state of things in their childhood, their families sleeping all *mélés* on the earth floors before their *vrec* fires, and seldom taking off their clothes,—every article of which, as well as their food, being of the coarsest kind. But during the last fifteen or twenty years a remarkable reformation has taken place from various inciting causes, more especially from the establishment of schools in the island, for, as Addison says, “what sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul;” after

\* The inscription is as follows:—“Icy repose le corps de Monsievr Iean Le Gros, natif de lisle de Sere, Ivge et Capitaine de la dite isle, décédé av Segnevr en cette paroisse le xxiiii iouv de Décembre, lan MDCLXXVII, iouv de sa naissance et de son aage entrant dans le LXI.

Après tant de travavx enfin il se repose,  
Egalement svbjet av vivre et av dormir,  
Et, semblable à la fievr nouvellement esclose,  
Le iouv qvi l'a vev naistre avssy la vev movrir.”



the same manner it draws out latent virtues and perfections, which without such aid would for ever remain dormant. If the Sarkese do not stand very high in the scale of genius—for no vestige of any native bard or chronicler can be found—there is much to admire in the simplicity and honesty of their character; they are generally free from vices, and are a useful and industrious race of people. Another medium through which great changes have been effected in Sark, is from the admixture with the English since the opening of the mines; also from the practice of sending the junior branches of their families to Jersey or Guernsey for trade, or as servants. A great advance in civilization is certainly visible in Sark; and this, combined with the fact of the population and houses having nearly doubled in number since 1821, we may justly say that the fourth epoch in the history of this little island has commenced. Very much is due to the late lord, Peter Le Pelley, esq., for the present condition of the island, from his zeal in the promotion of education, and the liberality with which he carried his views into effect: he also projected several public improvements, and made handsome offers towards their completion; but death suddenly arrested the designs of this respected gentleman. On the 1st of March, 1839, he was unfortunately drowned, with three other persons, near the *Pointe du*

*Nez*, by the upsetting of their boat in a squall as they were on their passage to Guernsey. A small mural tablet to his memory has been placed in the church by his brother, Ernest Le Pelley, esq., the present lord, who, with his family, resides entirely in Sark. The *seigneurie* house, or, as it was formerly termed, *La Moinerie*, from being the site of the old monastery, is a most substantial and comfortable residence, with extensive gardens and vinery attached. The islanders have reason to rejoice in having a resident *seigneur* and family, for the wants of the sick are invariably sought out and relieved, and the welfare of the rising generation is anxiously looked after by personal attendance at the Sunday school, the entire expense of which is defrayed by the *seigneur*. It is also gratifying to observe, that above one hundred boys and girls receive instruction from an ample number of teachers of the more respectable class of inhabitants, and it is to be hoped that the rising generation will greatly outstep the wisdom of their forefathers.

## CHAPTER III.

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SARK is the fourth of the Channel Islands in size, it being three miles and a half in length, and about one mile and a half broad in its extremest width; and is the most central and elevated of them all. It is six miles distant from Guernsey, and fourteen N.W. from Jersey; eighteen S.S.W. from Alderney, and about twenty-four from the French coast. An almost insurmountable barrier of perpendicular cliffs, from two to four hundred feet above the level of the sea, surrounds the island, giving to the exterior an appearance of rude fortification.

Such breastworks, formed by nature's architect,  
Defy the prowess of a world in arms;  
Whilst hidden reefs and currents well protect,  
Like counterscarp marine, from war's alarms.  
These lofty walls and bastions might supply  
The want of ramparts—one man to a host  
Is equal match—a loosened rock let fly  
Would crush a column on the rugged coast!

The eastern side especially is defended by submarine rocks and shelves, which run out in some parts a mile from the shore, producing great overfalls and dangerous eddies. When viewed from Guernsey, Sark presents to the

eye a lengthened line of rock, of huge and varied form, the height of which is greatly lessened by the optical delusion of distance over sea.

On leaving St. Peter-Port we pass the *Ferrière* rocks, covered, perhaps, with cormorants; and on the left the little isles of Jethou and Herm: then entering the Great Russell, we near the point of *Bréchou*, or *l'Île des Marchands*; and, if the tack lies north, we pass the *Pointe du Nez*, or northern extremity of the island: if to the south, we steer in sight of the *Coupée* and silver mines, and catch a view of the nodding engine and the buildings erected for the miners to dwell in; then turn by the southern rocks, against which the swell of the sea is very considerable. Although drawing near to the principal landing-place or harbour, called the *Creux*, it seems as if approaching only a barren rock, for, from its being table land, scarcely a tree or any verdure is visible on the heights; and as for habitations, only the tops of one or two cottages can be discerned. The only apparent signs of life and activity are the fishing boats with their white sails hoisted, scudding before the breeze, or each with its occupant engaged in loading his little bark with the result of his toils. The approach to the *Creux* is curious and picturesque, the cliffs being nearly perpendicular, and of fearful altitude. A tunnel cut through

the rock twenty-five yards in length, and wide enough for a horse and cart, takes the traveller into the interior. This tunnel was cut by one of the De Carteret family, *seigneur* of the island, of whose persevering efforts for improvement it remains a lasting proof. In 1823, a pier was erected by joint subscription, and for which a loan was also negotiated at Guernsey. There are two other points for landing, viz., *Havre Gosselin*, and the *Eperquerie*; but the ascent from them is so difficult and fatiguing, that they are not so frequently used, and there is no road by which to convey cargo easily. There is, however, a great saving of time in the length of the passage across.\*

At the first view, Sark has a barren appearance, but as he advances the stranger is struck with its diversified aspect of hill and dale. The road from the *Creux* is winding and extremely wild for about three quarters of a mile on the ascent, when it branches off into three others at a turnstile, and we are then on a level with the plane of the island. This is called the *Collinette*, where there are some farms and cottages,—the first belonging to Mr. Tanquerel; and the next to Mr. Elias Le Masurier, a neat little dwelling-house, rather more attractive than the rest of the Sark habitations by a par-

\* On the arrival of the cutters, sleighs and carts are waiting to convey luggage, and horses for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen who would be glad to avoid the fatigue of a long sultry walk up hill immediately on landing.



Highway at St. Breuc, Sark.



terre of flowers in front ; across the road is the residence of the worthy veteran, Joe Hazlehurst, nearly forty years resident on the island with the government charge of the ordnance. At this point the stranger will pause to think which direction he should take. If bound for the *Vauroque*, or Little Sark, he must pass through the turnstile and turn to the left, leaving the church on his right hand ; he will pass by the parsonage, a neat looking house with a small garden and a row of sycamores before it, and must steer towards the windmill, which is in a direct line to the *Vauroque*. If *Dixcart* be his destination, he must take the road to the left from the turnstile, and enter a gate on the right into a narrow lane, which leads across a beautiful down into the valley. The road to the right from the turnstile leads to the *Carrefour*, *La Ville*, and *La Valette*.

Very early in the spring Sark begins to wear an enlivened aspect. During the months of April, May, and June, there is a succession of wild flowers in the valleys and on the hills ; *Dixcart*, especially, is covered with a golden ground of flowering furze or gorse, enamelled with mats of primroses and violets, and the purple hyacinth in great luxuriance ; then orchards like fields of tinted blossom, with the honeysuckle and wild rose, diversify the scene,

And aromatics wild, and rock plants rare,  
With odours sweet perfume the morning air.

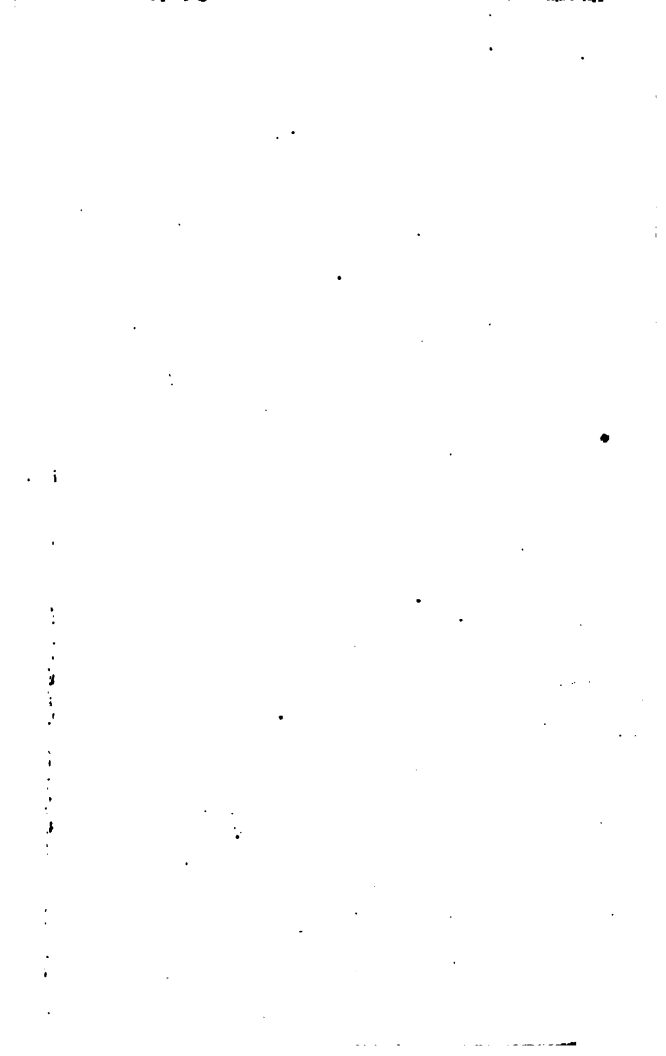


1. The first step is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.



Above, almost out of sight, is heard the skylark, and there a flock of gulls chattering on the edges of the rocks, or flying in elegant circles for exercise, or for the amusement or protection of their young. On every side the note of the cuckoo is re-echoed by its numerous companions, and the blackbird and thrush join their vocal melody. In fact, the harmony of nature is complete.

"Nor rural sights alone, but rural sounds  
Exhilarate the spirits, and restore  
The tone of languid nature."





La Poudre Park.

## CHAPTER IV.

### EXCURSIONS.

"'Tis not alone the scene —————  
The man finds sympathies in these wild wastes  
And roughly-tumbling seas, which fairer views  
And smother waves deny him."

WE will now suppose the visitor to have located himself in as comfortable quarters as he can select; and, after taking refreshment, he will doubtless be inclined to sally forth, staff in hand, in search of the lions of Sark. Although some other objects merit equal attention, we shall commence with that the most known, the most easy of access, and, therefore, generally the first sought out—

### THE COUPÉE.

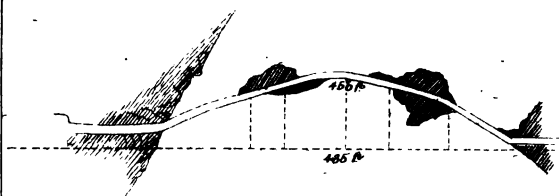
Taking the route towards Little Sark (one of the principal roads in the island), we come to the flag-staff on an eminence, near which is planted a piece of artillery, to command the *Coupée* pass, when, descending an excavated pathway, a scene of no common grandeur bursts upon the view. Stranger, look down, if thou canst without giddiness, from these battlements of mouldering rock into the gulph

of stormy waters on either side. Fear not, but cross with steady step; for, in truth, there is no danger, except in hurricanes from the west, which come howling like furies in the narrow gorge, and sweep fiercely over these airy pinacles; then, indeed, it is rather difficult to keep a firm footing.

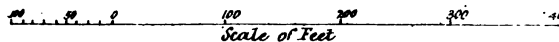
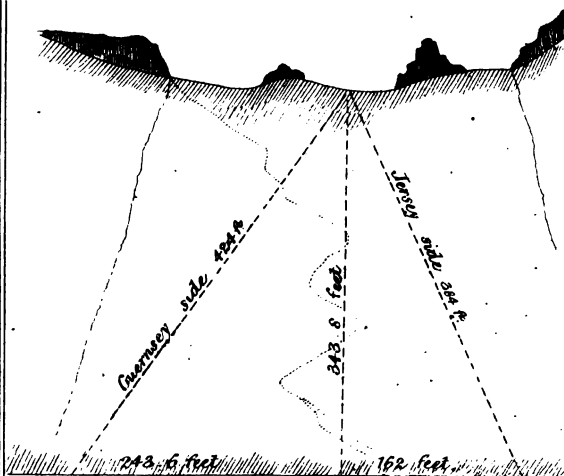
Here the black coursers of the stormy north  
Contend for mastery in the deep ravine;  
And western gales, with heaven's artillery fraught,  
Rise in mad tumult o'er its rocky screen.  
The God of wind has yoked his rampant steeds,  
Whose breath is tempest, and whose course the clouds,  
To storm at dead of night the *Coupée* pass,  
When driving spray the dark abyss enshrouds.

This singularly formed and narrow isthmus is a natural bridge of connection, and the only link of communication between Great and Little Sark; it is four hundred and fifty-six feet in length, varying in width from five to eight feet. The western, or Jersey side, is quite inaccessible—indeed, it is but forty-one feet out of the perpendicular at its base. The altitude, from high water-mark to the top of the cliff, is three hundred and eighty-four feet, by actual admeasurement made by Mr. John Prince, late superintendent of the mines, who has given the subjoined accurate plan and section of the *Coupée*, to which we refer our readers. This elevation, higher than St. Paul's cathedral, is lost to the eye in looking down, unless some fishing-boat, or *vrec* gatherer, should be below, whose pigmy size would

# GROUND PLAN OF THE COUPÉE



## ELEVATION OF THE COUPÉE



John Prince

DRAWN BY J. W. C.

Published by H. Brouard, Guernsey





dispel the optical illusion. The distance is also rendered more deceptive by the magnitude of surrounding rocks. A portion of the cliff having fallen in 1811, near to the junction with Little Sark, the path was cut through the rock, in order to lower the road, before which it passed in an undulatory form, nearly over the top of the pinnacles, and was not more than four to six feet in width; but, nevertheless, traversed by horsemen occasionally. Doubtless the *Coupée* is shorn of many of its terrors, and, at the same time, robbed of some of its sterner features, by this necessary adoption of art to render it more safe. Imagine the originally dangerous state of this lofty pass, and the situation of a horseman on its slippery tract, or any pedestrian on the apex of this one-sided pyramid, who, whilst leaning from the abyss on the one side, seems borne up by the stormy wind from the other. It is not surprising that some fatal accidents should have occurred, especially to persons crossing over in a state of inebriety—indeed, since the alteration, an old man, laden with bundles of straw, was carried over by the wind, and died the following day, in consequence of the injuries he sustained. Another person, a miner, subject to attacks of *delirium-tremens*, when crossing the *Coupée*, was frequently attacked with violent paroxysms of terror, and with difficulty prevented by his companions from falling

over. The present road, in some parts, is still without wall or protection of any kind on either side, and the rocks, being of micaceous schist, rapidly decomposing by the action of air and water, large masses hang, apparently loose, on the verge of the precipice, ready to be launched into the abyss below, or detached piece by piece and carried away by the fury of the elements.

The objects worthy of notice on the shore are the strata—the caves—the arch—the tunnel rock and broken *Creux*, near the *Pointe*—zoophytes—and some rare marine plants, well deserving the botanist's attention. "The stratification of the rocks is open and extensive; from east to west there is a vein of porcelain clay, eleven or twelve feet thick, intersected with grains of quartz, and purple, red, and yellow oxide of iron, which are probably the remains of veins running through the granite, from the decomposition of which the porcelain clay appears to have originated. The appearance of the original granite is in many parts visible."

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### THE POT.

After crossing the *Coupée*, we enter upon the Common, or grazing land, at the extremity of which we must turn to the left on this side a gate, and pursue the way along the hedge to a

stile near the cliff. Proceeding onwards towards the miners' buildings is observed a mound of earth, supposed to have been a cromlech or altar of the Druids, the stones of which have been removed, probably for the purposes of building. Just below is the road winding down to the *Pot*; half way on the descent is a stone seat, for the traveller to rest himself and enjoy a fine view of *Dixcart* bay, and the headlands of *Pointe du Chateau* and *Pointe Terrible*, with Jersey and the coast of France in the distance. The objects worth notice in the *Pot* are, the entrances to the copper mine—the archway leading to the shore—the second bay and the pinnacle rocks—the various specimens of rocks which have fallen and become rounded by the tide—and the third bay, in which the gulls build. The *Pot* should only be visited on the retiring tide, if it is desired to examine the outward rocks and bays; but if to see the *Pot* boiling and steaming off with the spray, it is in high spring tides with a swell that it should be seen. On leaving the *Pot*, we proceed by the side of the cliff to a zigzag descent over a tunnel or cave near to the miners' buildings, with *Le Tas* just before us—a conical rock whose base is laid in stormy waters, the passage between being always rough, arising from a shelf of rock extending from the mainland, almost visible at low water, and which consequently produces a powerful overfall. Towards

this point some of the upper levels of the mines have extended, and in violent storms from the south-west the miners state they have heard the rolling of the boulders over their heads at each concussion of a heavy sea breaking over them on the beach.

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### LITTLE SARK.

Having walked on to the extremity of Little Sark, we come to *Port Fred*, surrounded by huge rocks, which in some measure act as its breakwater; for so boisterous is the sea at this point, that in strong gales and a rising tide each sea has completely covered the largest of them, and the sheers and rails were once carried away in a storm. Thus it is not calculated for anchorage, but useful in calm weather for fishing craft, and as a landing-place for the mines. On these lower rocks a miner was standing, gazing at the heavy seas as they successively broke at his feet, when one of greater magnitude than the rest swept him in a moment into the boiling surf below,—nor was the body found for many days: a decent grave-stone in the burial-ground at Great Sark records the fatal accident. A little towards the south of *Port Fred* is the Le Pelley shaft, near to which is the chasm where the silver lode was first discovered, and where the adit (thirty fathom level) is seen just above high water-mark.

This situation is well calculated to obtain tidal power from the sea for the pumping of water at the deeper levels,—the sea thus making reparation for its own damages. We are now come to the centre of the mines—to many who visit this island not the most unimportant or the least interesting part of their researches; but so various and ample are the details which this subject includes, that we must refer our readers to a subsequent chapter, in which the geology and mineralogy of Sark will be more fully entered upon.

From the mines the route lies through the village of Little Sark to the west side cliff and *Petites Fontaines*, so named from the springs and wells there, now but indifferently supplied with water through the drainage of the main engine,—and by descending the road we come to another beach for fishing craft. On the north side is a fine shelf of rock, over which, in westerly gales, the sea breaks with great impetuosity, presenting an extensive field of surf. In returning by the side of the cliff, as near as possible to its edge, we pass a bold promontory with its head overhanging the sea, and an assemblage of perpendicular and inclined rocks forming a very rugged coast. We then come again upon the Common, where can be traced the site of the French fort, with its *fosse* and octagonal defences tolerably perfect. The examination of this site, and vaults underneath,

(if such exist) might perhaps repay antiquarians for their trouble. And now the *Coupée* must again be crossed, which well deserves a second inspection : a promenade on its fine sands may be taken at low water, or a dip in the sea if the tourist be not fatigued or too much heated.

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#### DIXCART VALLEY AND BAY.

The valley and bathing-beach of *Dixcart* bay are next in route from the *Coupée* road, by entering a narrow lane on the right hand, at the extremity of which are four substantial dwelling-houses : the first on the left is the *ménage* of Mr. Thomas Le Masurier ; a little further on are two houses standing near each other, approached by an avenue—the opposite one is the residence of the surgeon, the other the *ménage* of Mr. Thomas Godfray, the *prévôt* or sheriff. We come next to the residence of E. Gascoigne, esq., and directly past it is the road to the cliffs and bay of *Dixcart*, striking across a field and through a gap to a little gate which opens on the down. At this point the outline of the landscape deserves notice, being a semi-circular amphitheatre of hills. A foot-path to the right from the gate runs along the top of the cliff till it overlooks the bay,—and here, if the sun be not too scorching, is a delightful spot to rest upon the turf, and read or muse, or take the pic-nic repast. If descending

into the valley from the gate before mentioned, the pathway is by the side of a shallow brook, full of water-cress, winding along till it falls in a tiny cascade into the sea. Here is a small beach of very fine sand, which makes it the best bathing-place in the island ; but no bathing-machine has ever yet been seen in Sark. There are various arches here, formed by the undermining action of the sea, some of which form excellent dressing-rooms for bathers, and are worth going to the extremity of the beach to examine. Blue trap-rocks are seen on the shore to underlie the other strata, and small quantities of native plumbago in the partings ; plum-pudding stone and copper ore are abundant in the lodes.

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#### THE CREUX TERRIBLE, AND POINTE TERRIBLE.

Not far from *Dixcart* is the *Creux Terrible*. By crossing the little stream near the bay, those who are strong can ascend the cliff up to the old mill ; but those not sufficiently active must take the longer way by passing directly in front of the very prettily situated farm-house of Mr. Philip Baker, called *Petit Dixcart*, up to a turn which leads towards the mill : we then cross a hedge near the cliff, and come to a low turf wall, on the other side of which is seen this vast crater, rendered still more fearfully terrible in its aspect by the perpendicular precipices



around it of one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet, supported, as it were, upon columns carved out and fashioned by the sea, very much resembling the piers of a bridge, as the tide rushes through the arches at the entrance to the *Creux*. Having gazed awhile on this dark chasm, we should pass round to the other side, as being the least dangerous, in order to examine it at its lower border. It is one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet in depth. In a stormy sea the appearance of this gulph is still more terrific, the spray rising above its sides like a pot over-boiling, whilst the roaring of the waves below is carried up and reverberated from the surrounding heights, augmented by the *acoustic* figure of the *Creux*: thus, we may imagine old Ocean bellowing forth his angry voice through this his speaking trumpet. This combination of sounds and sights is both awful and impressive, especially when the elements are at war; but such scenes as these lose much of their force and elevating power over the mind, if viewed in the calm serenity of a summer day. To examine minutely the bottom of the *Creux*, the creeks and cavities in the strata, a boat is the best and the safest means, taking advantage of the low tide.

After a satisfactory view of the *Creux Terrible*, we cross a turf hedge to a lofty terrace at the edge of the cliff, but protected by the wall, and approach the *Pointe Terrible*, which,

however, is inaccessible from its being cut off by a drop-down of forty or fifty feet, and to attempt a circuit is somewhat dangerous; nevertheless, with the aid of ropes it might be safely crossed by those of firm nerves, and the lovers of adventurous deeds.

Not far distant is the *Pointe du Château*—a bold promontory jutting out into the sea, at the extremity of which is planted a piece of ordnance. The fine air on this elevated spot renders it a promenade very suitable to those who are not very robust, as it is easy of access, —and it is certain that the limbs and nerves of such persons would be greatly strengthened and invigorated by a daily morning walk thereon. Returning towards the old windmill tower on the hill, or proceeding in the direction of *Creux* harbour, the extent of these fine downs is visible, and it is much to be regretted that they are not covered with sheep, as would be the case in England. From the tower is a lane leading to the farm of Mr. Henry De Carteret; and from thence to the *Collinette*, which may be known from the turnstile before mentioned,

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#### HAVRE GOSSELIN.

We will now direct our visitors to the western extremity of the island, passing by the *Vauroque*, and *Beauregard* farm, towards the two cottages on the cliff belonging to Mr. P.

De Carteret, called the *Frégondée* ; and thence down a steep and winding path, beautifully picturesque, to the shore. This bay is called *Havre Gosselin*, so named after the Gosselin family, who formerly held a portion of the land. A harbour could be constructed here, without much difficulty, one being already partly formed by Nature, which would be rendered complete by a fixed or floating breakwater against the south-western gales ; and it would also have the advantage of an extra portway through the grand *Gouliot*. The suggestion of forming a harbour here had been mooted and estimated, and co-operation and subscriptions were offered by Guernsey in the time of the late lord, Peter Le Pelley ; but, there being no *esprit de corps*, this suggestion was not acted upon. At some distant period, it may be, so desirable a project will be put into effect, from an increase in the wants of the community, as well as from the advantage that will be gained by avoiding the danger and shortening the distance in rounding either point of the island.

On this beach are a greater variety of red and green jaspers, agates, &c., than in almost any other situation. In the bay a fatal occurrence took place but a few years since. A party of five or six persons came in a gig or open boat from Guernsey. Although strongly urged not to attempt returning, on account of the tremendous swell, they resolved to perse-

vere ; but in crossing the *Gouliot* stream, where there is always a very strong current, the boat capsized, and the whole party were seen struggling in the sea ; the next wave for ever covered them, nor were the bodies even washed ashore.

On regaining the summit of the zigzag descent, we may proceed a little further on the edge of the chasm to a wall which guards a ravine of two hundred and fifty or three hundred feet in depth,—and here we can rest, and hold a musing conference with the echoes which are in this spot.

Near *Havre Gosselin*, on its rocky wall,  
The mimic echoes dwell in sep'rate cells ;  
Converse in whispers, or the pass-word call,  
Warning the nestling birds like sentinels.  
But should the bugle sound in wild alarm,  
The twin-born sisters loud responses give ;  
Harmonic notes the ear of music charm,  
Which storms disperse, but zephyrs soft revive.

When am'rous lovers sigh enraptured bliss,  
Soft echo tells the thrice-repeated tale,  
And quick detection marks the stolen kiss,  
By tones respondent in the sounding vale.  
If "fool" you call, or "pray, Sir, who are you ?"  
They quick repeat—in any language plain ;  
But mock all compliments of doubtful hue,  
And insults multiplied return again.

From the *Gouliot* rocks, or from the eastern point of *Bréchou*, is one of the finest rock views in Sark, where rock piled on rock appear like pillars of support to the table land above. The caves beneath have been visited by persons of rank and distinction, and these echoing halls rendered still more enchanting by Britain's sweet native harmony and beauty.

## THE GOULIOT CAVES.

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Oh ! 'tis a glorious spectacle to see  
The mighty ocean into tempest cast,  
When squally winds, black clouds, and stormy seas  
Are roused to battle by Septentrion's blast ;

To hear the thunder of the breakers' roar  
In fierce contention on the rocks beneath,  
By man unseen, save when the gaping waves  
Like hungry jaws display their granite teeth.

Dark waters, rising from the rayless deep,  
In yawning gulphs or liquid mounts arise,  
And break impetuous on the southern rocks—  
Illum'd by lightning's flashes from the skies.

Yes ! spirit-stirring is the scene to view  
Sark's rocky walls besieged by hostile waves,  
When at full swing the pond'rous battering ram  
Of swollen seas assaunt the *Gouliot* caves.

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The *Gouliot* caves should next be visited,—and, in order to explore them thoroughly and easily, it is necessary to go at ebb tide, about one hour before low water. The approach is precipitous ; but the pathway upon the surface of the *Saut de Juan* is safe, with caution and a clear head, and leaning towards the face of the rocks. It is best to pass over the intervening rock, rather than proceed over the slippery sea-weed below, as the sea has excavated steps singularly convenient ; and it is recommended to have an adult guide who is well acquainted with the footing. The grand *Gouliot* is very lofty, with tripod buttresses, and many fissures well worth examination ; one, in particular, has a most singular conformation, resembling the human ear, and possessing a

trumpet-like form : sound is increased when a person speaks from its upper aperture. Its curved figure does not correspond with most other fissures, which are generally straight. On the right side is a long and very narrow chasm extending about fifty yards into the lesser *Gouliot* creek. The aqua-marine colour is very brilliant when the sun shines at its entrance ; and when the spray dashes up in the chasm it resembles a splendid shower of emeralds falling. The reverberation in these caverns is worthy the trial of music : the second cavern will convey the harmony to those above who might find it too difficult to descend, supposing the band to be stationed at the junction of the two halls.

Sea-anemonæ, barnacles, corallines, madreporæ, and sponges, are luxuriant on the walls of the *Gouliot* caverns ; and varieties of volutæ have been found, not common on other shores.

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### THE BOUTIQUES.

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Time's stealthy footsteps, as revolving years,  
Are deeply graved upon the rocks around ;  
And tortuous caves like Neptune's trumpets swell  
Their tempest tones, and watery aisles resound.  
The cave-imprison'd air, like muffled drum  
Or cannon's peal, comes echoing from afar,  
On fancy's pinions borne ; and martial bands,  
With sounds discordant mixed, like raging war.

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These caves are very remarkable, and, from the romantic character they possess—their peculiar strata, form, extent, or any legend which

has been said to attach to them—certainly merit attention and investigation. To visit them it is necessary to go at low tide, provided with a strong rope and a short ladder, for many and rather formidable are the rocky obstacles which present themselves ; the assistance of a man is therefore requisite to give firm hold of the rope, and to point out the pools of water in the cavities, over which the ladder should be laid, in order to cross them without being wet. The descents are somewhat difficult, and the ascents far from easy without these appliances. The guide should be provided with a lantern, torches, and a faggot of furze to illuminate the depths of the caverns, and render the “darkness visible,” without which much of the grandeur of the scene is lost. The height of the roof is about fifty feet : the *tout ensemble* is very striking, especially to any person looking down on the party burning faggots below, conveying to the mind the abode of pirates. An accordeon or a glee would resound most harmoniously through the diverging aisles,—would dispel all feelings of terror, and awaken emotions in the mind which such “Stygian” scenes cannot fail to arouse. Here is a theatre formed by Nature, rich in natural scenery and embellishments, fit for the performance of an act in a piratical tragedy, in which the great ocean itself would take its part. Hark at the booming sound of the mountain-like wave with-

out—then the dash and near approach of the foaming tide within, re-echoed along the vaulted passages, and breaking over the fragments of fallen rock,—all conspiring in the dim twilight of this deep recess to produce in some minds a religious awe—in all, admiration of the stupendous effects of time and tide.

Such are thy works, thou restless pioneer,  
Great leveller of nature! mighty sea!  
Whose powers gigantic nurs'd in northern storms  
Have wrought these miracles in lapse of time.  
All things are born to perish and dissolve,  
E'en granite yields to the victorious wave;  
Huge rocks are tunnell'd by its solvent force,  
When oceans grow impatient of their bounds.

The destructive power of this great natural agent is more palpably visible on an exposed coast like Sark, than it is possible to be on the pebbly beach of an inland sea; so that age produces its changes, and sets its mark on everything on earth—the sea alone escapes.

“Time writes no wrinkle on thy azure brow,  
As at creation's dawn, thou rollest now!”—BYRON.

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### PORT DU MOULIN.

The visitant will find this a most wild, romantic, and engaging spot. The direct route to it lies past the *Seigneurie* gates, taking the first turn to the left up a flowery and narrow lane. We then come to an ascent on the right hand, and on the left is a green winding foot-path, extremely picturesque, down to the beach. The summit of the ascent should first be gained,



as the view from it is unrivalled in beauty, commanding Guernsey, with the adjacent smaller isles, upon which we look down at an elevation of several hundred feet. This view is, in some points, equal, if not superior, to any in the island. In order to view the beach from below, the visitor must retrace his steps, and then descend by a pathway, tolerably easy of access, amid scenery of the most grand and striking description—a noble range of almost perpendicular rocks breaks on the view, with here and there the hanging archway, once the support of rocks now in dismembered fragments on the beach, or rounded into boulders. Crawling like lobsters amidst these masses of rock, some in blocks twenty feet square, and polished by the tides; some resembling black marble, others blue, and others a greenish yellow of the jasper species, we come to the three *Aûtelets*, singularly stratified rocks, apparently once the pillars of support to some extensive cavern or trembling arch, long since washed away by storms.

“Those hidden rocks th’ Ausonian sailors knew,  
And called them altars when they rose to view.”—DRYDEN.

The stratification is here nearly horizontal, and the partings also; it is singular to observe these fissures extending simply by the action of air and springs of water within, without any interference of the tide—a proof that the sea acts principally as a pioneer, by undermining and removing the contents of these excavations.

Los Angeles Park

San Diego

San Diego





There are two caves worth notice—the first is much water-worn, both on the ceiling and the floor—also two bays, and other arches and fissures, which can only be seen, if on foot, once a month, at the lowest spring tides. A sailing or rowing boat at command would be an important addition in making a survey of the fine gigantic rocks at the *Port du Moulin*,—at the same time visiting the *Boutiques*; indeed, the life and spirit of the excursion would much depend on having one, many parts being inaccessible to pedestrians.

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#### POINTE DU NEZ, ÉPERQUERIE, AND THE EASTERN SHORE.

To complete the circuit of the coast, we proceed to the northern extremity of the island by the church and *Seigneurie* to the drilling-ground, where the militia practise their exercises and firing at a mark;\* then pass to the western cliffs where there are some fine ravines, and notice the land entrance to the *Boutiques*. If at low tide, we can cross the narrow strait to the *Pointe du Nez*: this is a dangerous point of navigation, at certain seasons, for small boats; it was near this spot that the fatal accident occurred to the late respected lord of the

\* The militia consist of between eighty and ninety men, under command of the lord, with the rank of lieut.-colonel commander: they are considered the best marksmen in the Channel Islands. In 1831, the militia of Sark, with that of the other isles, was made Royal by William IV.

island, with his crew. Returning now by the eastern shore, immediately below is the *Eperquerie*, frequently used as a landing-place; above is planted a piece of ordnance. The adjacent bay is a site well adapted for a harbour, to which a good road might be formed convenient for the shipment of granite from the quarries. On bearing to the south, a glance may be taken, *en passant*, at a miniature *Creux*, fashioned after the same form, and by the same process, as the larger ones. The visitor must have remarked, in the course of his perambulations, the peculiar feature of this island—viz., the *Creux* and *Coupée* process, visible on all its shores. He must now ascend the slope, and proceed on to *Grève de la Ville*. The wash of the sea has here separated a detached rock into several pillars, which present a singular appearance, all inclining to the same angle; beyond this is a spacious excavation, called the *Chapelle des Mauves*. The visitor may then, if he pleases, complete the circuit of the island, passing by *La Vallette*, and, along the cliff road, to the lofty down overlooking the *Creux* harbour; then, returning by the *Collinette*, home to his quarters.

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#### ÎLE DES MARCHANDS, OR BRÉCHOU.

This will constitute a very pleasant excursion, as it admits of a cruise amongst the splendid scenery of *Havre Gosselin* and the

*Gouliot* pass, thence to *Bréchou*, and round the isle, "shooting" the *Gouliot* on returning to *Havre Gosselin*. We first pass by the two entrances to the *Gouliot*, into which the sea rolls with impetuosity at high tides ; then the little *Gouliot*, and afterwards the grand *Gouliot* passages. It was here that, about the year 780, the wreck of three French vessels, related in so graphical a manner, though embellished with a few touches of the marvellous, by Paul Warnefrid, deacon of Aquilæa, took place. He calls *l'Ile des Marchands* Evodia, or *la Givaude*,—a name still preserved by a rock at its extremity, infamous for its shipwrecks. The original narrative having been translated, several years since, for the inspection of the late Captain A. Deschamps, that accomplished seaman, who was himself a native of Sark, immediately identified Evodia with *Bréchou*, and confuted the literary *mariniers d'eau douce* who confound it with Alderney. In the year 1779, the *Valentine*, East Indiaman, part of a fleet under convoy of the frigate *Apollo*, was wrecked on that dangerous rock, called '*le Nesté*,'\* near *l'Ile des Marchands* ; but they did not shoot the *Gouliot*. A merchant vessel, name unknown, performed that dangerous experiment—being compelled to do so by stress of weather—about the same period. Here also Mr. Le Cocq, some years

\* In Swedish or Norman, *Nesta* ; in Frankish, *Nechste* ; in Bas-Breton, *Nés*—the *nest* or *nearest* rock.

ago, by passing through, saved his vessel from shipwreck. In high tides, the stream from the *Gouliot* is very rapid, and it is dangerous for small boats to cross in a gale; but this information is better gained from the Sark fishermen, who cruise constantly amongst these currents. The little isle of *Bréchou* constitutes part of the *Seigneurie* estate, on which there are in cultivation twenty-five acres of productive land. There is only one house on the island, and the present population consists of five persons! A pic-nic repast may very well be enjoyed at this farm-house, where eggs, bacon, milk, &c., can be obtained.

There are two or three caves in *Bréchou*, deserving the attention of the curious; one is called the Pirates' Cave, which, there is no doubt, was formerly used as a place of concealment and shelter by those brigands, as their boats might lie hidden behind the rocks; and, there being no approach from the land, it was a perfectly safe retreat. A quantity of red ashes, three feet or more in depth, was found near the left side entrance when the copper lode was discovered. It is easy to explore the interior of this mine with a lantern or torch. The lode is considered valuable and rich, and is worthy the attention of capitalists. There are two other cavities or caves, which must be viewed with caution as to time; for, when the tide is in, they are completely locked, and the

unfortunate man who might be therein must inevitably be lost in this prison-cave.

Some cavern dark and narrow as the grave,  
 At rising tide hermetically sealed,  
 Shuts up some hapless prisoner within  
 With wat'ry doors—alone, in darkness veiled.  
 Sometimes the light shines thro' the angry surf,  
 Flashing bright hope, and then again the gloom  
 Spreads wide its vampire wings in languid flight,  
 And blackest night enshrouds the living tomb !  
 Despair and desperation seize the soul—  
 To try each pass, to dive beneath the wave  
 He quick resolves, imploring help from heav'n—  
 No succour comes, no rescue from the grave ;  
 Moments seem ages, though they quickly pass,  
 Whilst to and fro the hapless victim flies—  
 Then, madly rushing on the whelming tide,  
 He sinks exhausted, and—in horror dies !

### PORT-ÈS-SÉES.

Here is another gap or chine worthy the notice of artists, as it possesses some remarkably bold cliff scenery, some of the most lofty precipices in the island, and with the steepest descents to the shore : this is easily visited, being only one hundred yards from the main road, opposite *Dixcart* vale, on the western shore. A walk along these beautiful downs will lead to *Havre Gosselin* ; the pathway is not difficult, and the views of this coast, with *Port-ès-Sées*, the *Coupée* sands, and Little Sark, will amply repay the short circuit. The copper lode here is rich, and operations in one or two levels have been begun, but not now continued. There is a great spring of water therein, said to be of higher temperature than the ordinary



standard. Silver-lead ore is seen polished by the tide, imbedded in the quartzose veins, on the beach.

Having gone the circuit of the island, it must be allowed that Sark abounds with varied points of interest, although no fossil organic remains are found, it being composed entirely of primitive rock. The structure of Sark differs from the other isles in having syenite at both extremities, between which is interposed, forming the bulk of the island, a large mass of schistose rock, associated with the gneiss of Guernsey. The syenite here is of a brilliant bluish-grey colour, extremely hard and ponderous. It may be here remarked, that the rocks on the shores are becoming every year more separated and distinct from the main land, as the Channel becomes deepened by the tide; and, judging from the chasms, intersections, and *débris* scattered around, we might suppose the island itself will be eventually cut up and washed away by the currents of the ocean. At the same time, we may reflect on the ages that must have elapsed in the rounding of such masses as are scattered on the beach at the *Port du Moulin*, and the polishing of the interior of its caves, many of which cannot be reached by the highest spring-tides of the present day. Some geologists have inferred that, at a very remote period, these islands formed part of the coast of France, from the similarity

of the rocks on the shores ; and when we observe such masses of shingle and fields of sand removed by high tides, and recollect that the movement is simultaneous over all the shores, under this agency, for several thousand years, as also that the rocks are formed of perishable materials, the idea may with some reason be entertained.

As a change of scene from the ruggedness of the rocks, the jar of breakers on the shore, and the buffeting of the wind in the passes of the hills, it may be a pleasure to some to vary the routine by equestrian exercise, for which purpose horses may be hired, quite safe and sure-footed : this is deserving the attention of ladies and others who could not endure the fatigue and heat consequent upon being on foot all day ; but the genuine traveller, who cares not for personal inconvenience—who has a fine eye for scenery—who loves to linger in quiet, secluded, out-of-the-way spots—will find in these interesting rocks and ravines abundant food for the indulgence of his taste or curiosity.

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diff'rent minds  
Incline to diff'rent objects ; one pursues  
The vast alone, the wonderful, the wild ;  
Another sighs for harmony, and grace,  
And gentlest beauty.

A word may be added respecting the Sabbath in Sark, which is truly here a day of rest and tranquillity : not a sound is heard to break the solemn stillness which reigns around ; and, after

the fatigue of the previous days, there is opportunity for the enjoyment of a mental devotion, which, in the atmosphere of other places, is scarcely to be found. Should the visitor have been associated with the gay and thoughtless during the week's rambles, and he be inclined to take a contemplative walk, let him re-visit some lonely cave, to feel those emotions which these wild haunts produce, such as the *Boutique* caves, whose cloistered halls proclaim them the shrine of the Omnipotent, inspiring the holiest thoughts and the highest sentiments of gratitude and wonder. Service is performed at the church twice every Sunday, by the Rev. J. L. V. Cachemaille, who has for many years been the respected and faithful minister of Sark. Occasionally, during the summer, there is an English evening service, through the kindness of any clergyman visiting the island, which is always well attended by both strangers and residents. There is also a Wesleyan chapel, with French service,—and the same at Little Sark, with English service: ministers generally come from Guernsey, or elsewhere, to officiate.

## CHAPTER V.

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### MINES—MINERALS—GEOLOGY.

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“Whate’er is excellent in art proceeds  
From labour and endurance : deep the oak  
Must sink in stubborn earth its roots obscure,  
That hopes to lift its branches to the skies.  
Gold cannot gold appear, until man’s toil  
Discloses wide the mountain’s hidden ribs,  
And digs the dusky ore, and breaks and grinds  
Its gritty parts, and laves in limpid streams,  
With oft-repeated toil, and oft in fire  
The metal purifies. With the fatigue,  
And tedious process of its painful works,  
The lusty sicken, and the feeble die.”—DYER’S FLEECE.

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ALTHOUGH Sark abounds in mineral veins, no attempt was made to explore them till the year 1834 ; a short time previous to which the metalliferous vein or lode at the south part of the island, called the *Pot*, had been discovered by Mr. John Hunt. A company was then formed for the purpose of working the whole of the mineral veins in the island,—and a lease for thirty-one years, on advantageous conditions, was obtained from the late lord, P. Le Pelley, esq. ; this lease was subsequently extended to thirty-nine years, from 1837. The operations of the company were confined to this vein until

1836, when the above-named gentleman also discovered the silver lode, situate in the south-west part of the island, called "Sark's Hope." In this instance, a trifling circumstance led to the discovery—the mere shooting of a rabbit on the margin of the cliff, which fell over into the creek; and a man being sent after it, he brought up, in addition to the rabbit, several stones of rich argentiferous lead. The sea had washed out the felspar clay (or *fluccau*) on the hanging wall of the lode; and the lead being more compact, it was left in the cliff several feet in height. It is quite evident that no mineralogist had ever before examined this part of the island, as the shining crystals of lead could have been seen at a considerable distance from them. Two galleries, or levels, were extended a few fathoms E.N.E. on the old vein, the one six feet and the other sixty feet above the level of the sea. Several pits were sunk on the surface, to ascertain the bearing of the lode, and as soon as the nature of the vein was known, the directors (five chosen from among the shareholders to manage the affairs of the company) sent to Cornwall for a practical mine agent, to inspect and report on the most interesting veins in the island, and to give instructions how they should be most advantageously worked. Captain Nicholas Vivian visited Sark for that purpose in September, 1836, and gave a very favourable report of the vein in ques-

tion, as well as several others hereafter to be mentioned. At the same time, Captain John Prince was appointed to superintend the working of the mine, who commenced blasting rocks to form a landing-place for vessels to approach with materials ; a road was made to convey them to the mine ; shafts were sunk, buildings completed, and the necessary machinery was erected, in order to carry on the working effectually. The machinery consists of a steam-engine, of 120 horse-power, for pumping the water out of the mine ; one of 18 horse-power, for drawing the ore and other stuff out of the shafts ; a crushing machine ; and a stamping-mill, which has been erected during the present year.

There are four shafts in the mine, namely : Sark's Hope, Le Pelley's, Vivian's or Engine Shaft, and Prince's Shaft. The first is on the western extremity of the mine, and is sunk to three hundred and sixty feet below the surface ; the others follow easterly, and their respective depths are, Le Pelley's, about six hundred feet ; Vivian's, four hundred and eighty, and Prince's, three hundred and sixty-six. There are eight galleries, three of which are extended on the course of the vein, horizontally, three thousand six hundred feet, and one is driven three hundred feet under the sea. The lode varies in size from two to twelve feet, and dips in an angle of ten degrees northerly. The rock is a

very hard syenite, except near the lode, where it is decomposed, and in some places chlorite (*peach*) is found. In these decomposed syenitic and chloritic rocks are numerous steatitic joints and veins of massive and crystalline carbonate of lime, peroxide of iron, and beds of oxide—hydrate of manganese. The matrix of the lode consists of fragments of the strata; carbonate of lime; milk, rose, and brown quartz; red, green, and white felspar; and in some places hornstone (*capel*). The lode, as far down as forty fathoms below the sea, contains an abundance of brown earthy iron ore (*gossan*); with nodulated, radiated, arsenical, argentiferous, auriferous, white, and magnetic iron pyrites (*mundic*).

In addition to the above, the following valuable minerals (specimens of which may be seen at the mine) have been found. They are not mineralogically arranged, but are placed as they were found in different parts of the mine, from the commencement of the operations up to the present time, viz., blue and green carbonate of copper, phosphate of lead, crystalline carbonate of lead, sulphate, tri-carbonate of lead, sulphate of lead, sulphuret of lead, super-sulphuret of lead, black sulphuret of lead, antimoniferous galena, granular galena, muriate of silver,\* black sulphuret of silver, antimonial silver,

\* This is a very rare combination, and known only to exist in some mines in South America.

sulphuret of silver and antimony, sulphuret of silver, ruby silver, sulphuret of silver and copper, sulphuret of antimony, and copper pyrites. It should be observed that the muriate of silver was found in the eastern part of the mine, and very near the surface, followed by the black sulphuret of silver, antimonial silver, &c. The ores raised, up to the present period, have contained upwards of twenty-five thousand ounces of fine silver, in addition to many tons of lead.

The above analysis points out the remarkable features in the rocks of Sark,—the number of metallic veins, or lodes, which intersect their formation, and the great variety of minerals found therein. That there are abundant lodes in some parts of the island is the existing opinion of all the mineral agents who have made the examination; but where to search for them with the greatest certainty of success seems a difficult point to decide. The copper lode is promising in *Bréchou* and *Port-ès-Sées*;<sup>\*</sup> and some mineralogists have predicted a certain and ample return to those capitalists who may, at some future time, devote their English money and talents to the exploring of those hidden beds of treasure.

The general outline of the geological arrange-

<sup>\*</sup> It is said that at the *Port du Moulin* a copper mine was opened some centuries since by one of the former *seigneurs*; but no vestige of any operations are seen. However, from there being a corresponding granite formation, it may be premised that the same measures exist.



ment of Sark may be taken thus: the southern part of the island is composed of granite and syenite; the west of deposits of schistus or killas; the east and north of trap and greenstone; but in the north the original granite again appears; so that it may be said the island is tipped at either end with granite,—the schistose and argillaceous rocks lying between them. The main body of the island is composed of the gneiss rock, comprising every mixture and gradation of micaceous schist with those of hornblende, chlorite, tale, and potstone; and the frequent interchange of the component parts has caused geologists to differ as to the character of the rocks of Sark. But the features which chiefly mark the structure and antiquity of primitive rock are strikingly manifest in this island: first—that they form the fundamental rock of the other classes; secondly—that having existed since the earliest chaotic separations, they contain no kind of organic remains or petrification; thirdly—that they have no mechanical deposits, but are throughout pure chemical productions; fourthly—when granite is exposed, it is most generally seen in high and steep cliffs, forming vast mural precipices as at the *Coupée*; and such rocks have usually deep rents or fissures in them, which widen by the action of the elements: the mass also separates into fragments of greater or lesser magnitude, remaining long piled on each other in





Port du Mont, Sark.

London, Edward & 45, Fenchurch St.

the most fanciful manner, and appear like vast artificial tumuli ; such may be seen at the *Port du Moulin*. The syenitic rocks of the north and south are brilliant, and contain more metallic indications than any similar rocks in the other islands.

The *Pot* copper lode bears ten degrees S. of W., and is to be seen at the *Port Gorey* : it is intersected by the silver lode at Prince's Shaft, and wrought on from thence by virtue of the same engine ; but the levels at *Le Pot*, which are extended westerly ninety fathoms, have long since been suspended. A cross drift has been made north from the silver lode, west of junction, four hundred and eighty feet below the surface,—the copper lode cut and wrought on,—and a winze sunk several fathoms below that level ; but without discovering anything worthy of notice. The matrix of this lode varies from the silver lode, inasmuch as it contains a greater abundance of felspar and carbonate of lime, but more especially hard drusy crystalline radiated brown and yellow quartz. The *Pot* silver lode bears nearly N. and S. (magnetic), and dips W. It is about two feet in breadth, and consists of radiated crystalline quartz, red and yellow clay, and a few spots of antimonial silver and galena ; but after a few fathoms had been driven, it was not thought worthy of further prosecution.

The rocks from this part (*Le Pot*) to *Dixcart* bay consist of trap, greenstone, hornblende

schist, with veins of quartz, and tabular veins of red and white felspar. There are three lodes here, traversing a beautiful rock of hornblende and green felspar. The north vein is composed of felspar clay with quartz, disintegrated iron pyrites (*sandy mundic*), and carburet of iron. The south vein underlaying the north is large, and contains, in addition to the above, gossan, and masses of coarse quartz. Judging from the bearing of two of these veins, they will be found to have intersected the silver lode to the west of Sark's Hope Shaft, which, in the opinion of many, is decidedly the most important part of that mine. At some future day the lode in this direction may be found very productive.

Nothing worthy of notice is to be seen from the eastern point of *Dixcart* bay to the *Creux* : the rocks vary in their component parts, showing also trap, greenstone, gneiss, and syenite, with numerous veins of quartz and compact, and decomposing felspar.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### SOIL—AGRICULTURE—PRODUCE, &c.

OWING to the chemical and mechanical disintegration of the primitive rocks, the formation of the soil is rendered conspicuous. Originally, at its first elevation from the deep, the surface was composed of the outburst of the mineral strata of various composition—some possessing weaker affinities than others, and, therefore, slower in undergoing decomposition by the action of heat, frost, air, and water, and by their proportional variations, which accounts for the difference of fertility. This process is visible at the *Coupée*, and the subsequent formation of black vegetable or peat mould, four or five feet in thickness, is to be observed near the mines at Little Sark. Although formed so directly from the primitive rocks, it is extremely fertile, from its containing the rudiments of the most approved mineral manure. The schist rocks, syenite, and porcelaine or soft granite, consist of several materials held together by a cement, perishable by exposure to air and water, aided by winter frost and summer heats opening its

crystalline conjunctions. Vegetation commences at that point where mineralization ceases, and may be said to be supported and nourished by the *débris* of the mineral kingdom. This process is aided by the *vrec*, most abundantly employed as manure, and which is found to enrich the soil and cause great fertility : it is sea-weed, of different species of algæ, but goes under the general name of *vrec*. It grows on all the rocks on the coast, but the quantity here would not suffice,—and the Sarkese have the privilege of cutting it from the adjacent island of Herm, where it is found in great abundance. It is gathered only at certain seasons appointed by public authority : part is dried, and is used for fuel ; part is spread, as fresh gathered, on the ground, and ploughed in ; it is likewise scattered, in the same state, over meadow land, and it greatly promotes the growth and richness of the pastures. The “*vrecking* season” is truly a busy and laborious, but cheerful, time. The beach is covered with carts, horses, and sledges ; and women and children are seen assisting the men in this very important part of their labours. From the peculiar situation of the land and its loamy soil, *vrec* seems the best adapted to manure it ; for it is requisite to fix and retain an adequate quantity of moisture in the land, otherwise it would run off too rapidly by the declivities, and the effects of solar evaporation and drying winds would tend to injure

the produce. As snow rarely remains on the ground, it has not so much the advantage of winter irrigation ; but this latent humidity compensates and acts the part of overflow, which in a lighter soil would be absolutely necessary. The addition of chalk, ashes, or lime might be beneficial where the clay has too great an ascendancy ; but chalk, limestone, or marl have never been found in the island, except in small quantities in the form of calcareous spar.

In all the minutiae connected with the cultivation of the soil, the method is much the same as in Jersey. The implements of agriculture are ruder ; but the tillage is the same, and the prejudices against innovation are perhaps more enduring. A greater number of acres (about eight hundred) are in cultivation here than in Alderney ; and it is computed that two-thirds of the produce is exported. Wheat and potatoes are the principal and most abundant products ; barley, oats, beans, and parsnips are also grown : the exportation of the two former to Guernsey, and the fattening of cattle, are the chief sources of the riches of the Sark agriculturists. Each field is varied by long stripes of different corn or vegetables, and are sometimes rented by several of the poorer class of landholders.\* Sheep-folding and drill husbandry have been lately introduced by C. De Jersey

\* Jersey land-measure is adopted here—two vergées and a half compose a statute acre.



Grut, esq. The native sheep are singularly small, a quarter of which sometimes does not exceed three pounds or three pounds and half ; it is nearly wild mutton, very lean, and having a somewhat game flavour. The horses also are small, but strong and hardy. There are above twenty-five orchards in the island ; but, except in one or two instances, the cider manufactured here is a sour unwholesome beverage. The horticulture is scarcely worth notice, as little else is grown besides cabbage ; there are noble specimens of the cabbage-tree, which are often to be seen, ten to twelve feet in height, growing amongst the apple trees : fruit, vegetables, and flowers may however be raised here to as great a perfection as in the other islands, as the gardens attached to the *Seigneurie* and the Parsonage give ample proof. There is, therefore, no reason whatever why the horticultural department should not be more generally attended to, as there is much waste ground around most of the houses. The appearance of neatness and good order arising from garden productions, added to the convenience and comfort of having fruit and vegetables at hand, would extend a beneficial influence over the whole island, and could not fail to be prized by both inhabitants and visitors.

The island is deficient in wood, but in sheltered situations the ash, sycamore, chesnut, &c., grow well. In *Dixcart* valley, and about the

*Seigneurie*, there is a great deal of wood, which is flourishing and umbrageous. The trees on the high grounds have certainly a most pitiable aspect: this does not arise from the situation and the saline breezes alone, but also from the barbarous amputations they undergo annually for the purpose of fire-wood. By these operations the order of nature seems inverted, and they look as if actually growing downwards, with the butt ends and roots in the air; then they all lean towards the east, and seem as if they would fain run away from such an inhospitable region. It is singular to observe the leaves sprouting from the trunk itself, and other efforts of nature combatting to modify the injuries inflicted by the hand of man.

The pasture lands are very productive, from the nature both of the soil and climate. All cattle are tethered; this renders them more docile, and is a greater security to the owner in these half-open fields, as also to the passer by. There are abundance of rabbits in Sark; and, in winter, woodcocks and snipes occasionally come over: no toads or poisonous reptiles, but a great many frogs. The fish most common are lobsters, crabs, mackarel, whiting, rock-fish, silver bream, cod, and occasionally red mullet, soles, and john doreys. Congers are taken in great abundance, and they form an important part of the diet of the natives in soup. The *ormer*, or *oreille de mer*, is a shell-fish some-

what resembling the oyster, almost peculiar to these rocks,—and at the lowest spring-tides they are found adhering to them, when many tons weight are collected. The inside of the shell is like mother-of-pearl, for which, by preparation, it might be made an excellent substitute, and manufactured into buttons, &c. : here they are only employed to fill up the ruts in the roads.

The Sarkese being exclusively engaged in fishing and agriculture, it is not surprising that these pursuits, from their very solitude, should prove obstacles to civilization and improvement. The native *siehrs* seem averse to alter the methods hitherto undeviatingly pursued by them and their ancestors, thereby closing their eyes to the mighty movements of the world without, and to the fact that, by a more extended system of commerce, their capital, often amassed without interest, would be turned many times during the current year, and sunk in safe and profitable investments. The wide field for improvements and speculation which agricultural chemistry has laid open, as respects specific manures for certain crops, will doubtless engage the attention of some of the larger farmers in the Channel Isles, when the result of experiments and the progressive march of science is more universally known throughout Great Britain. Future successors to estates will then be desirous to extend the area of cultivation, by

enclosing the waste lands and rendering them arable,—so that nearly double the population can be securely maintained and profitably employed. The late and the present lord of Sark have made some amelioration, by the formation of sheep downs at Little Sark, and converting a part of the island of *Bréchou* into good arable land. The adoption of terraces on some of the slopes is a mode of increasing the actual surface of the island, and they may be advantageously used for grazing, horticultural, and other purposes. Examples of this may be seen in the fields called *Les Bas Jardins*, and on the left of *Dixcart* valley. By the formation of these arable places, irrigation can be more conveniently and efficiently carried into effect.

## CHAPTER VII.

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### LAWS, CUSTOMS, &c.

THE laws of these islands being of Norman origin, we may expect to find most of their usages very similar; but still there exists a distinction between some of the customs of Sark and those of the other Channel Isles. It must be recollected that the isle of Sark was given by Queen Elizabeth, as a reward for faithful services, to Hélier De Carteret, of Jersey, his heirs and successors, to be held for ever under the Crown "in *fief*, or by *knight's service*—(appertaining to which are homage, service in war, escuage, wardship, marriage, &c.,)"—for which he was to pay yearly a knight's fee of fifty *sols* into the Court of Guernsey: from that period the island has been held by its *seigneurs* under the same tenure. The feudal system originally prevailed in Jersey in all its force; but the incessant petty broils and warfares amongst the *seigneurs* were checked by the interference of the Pope, in the time of Henry VII.,—and afterwards the system was effectually abolished by a new code of laws in 1771. This little spot remains the only ves-

tige of the ancient feudal system in the British dominions,—time and custom have annulled many of its privileges. The most conspicuous feature at this time is the existence of the law of primogeniture in all its pristine purity ; and the original division of the island into forty estates remains the same even unto this day. These estates are entailed, and cannot be subdivided : if sold, they are recoverable by any heir to the estate, not confined to the nearest of kin, who is willing to redeem it ; for this, he must give notice of his intention within twenty-four hours after the sale, and within a year and a day therefrom the same amount of purchase money must be paid down, which is restored to the first purchaser, who thereby loses all right and title to the estate in question. By the law of inheritance in Sark, the whole of the estate descends to the eldest son ; whereas in Jersey and Guernsey it is more or less divided : should there be no son, the eldest daughter is invested with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, in consequence of the non-division of the estate. The widows of all *sieurs* enjoy their *troisième*, or thirds, during their lives—that is, a third part of the land, personal property, and also a third part of the house, which is parted off or united to that of the inheritor, as found agreeable. All the other branches of the family are, generally speaking, either employed on the estate,

or go to sea or service, as may best suit their tempers and inclinations ; these take generally a higher grade in society, and, by their innate frugal habits, often acquire in the world much greater wealth than their more favoured brethren at home, though instances are not wanting of great accumulation of property being made on a principle peculiar to the place itself, that of producing everything that is needed. In alluding to the household as constituted in former times, for the better conception of circumstances, it is necessary to go back almost to the first landing of the De Carterets from Jersey, and to imagine the different pairs of all cattle, poultry, &c., to have issued forth as if from the ark, and to have increased and multiplied exceedingly. The new settlers naturalized themselves in the island ; they built houses, threw up mounds of division between their lands, built their rude styes, their barns and cowsheds, marked out the limpid duck-ponds, and constructed those simplest and rudest of all machines—the ancient Sark *charrette* and sledge. They were able to supply themselves with milk and butter, pickled pork, dried fish, fish oil, shell-fish, woollen vests and stockings, lobster pots, corn flour, barley bread, cider, potatoes ; and firewood and *vrec* for manure and fuel. Thus, isolation having engendered necessity, the latter produced a degree of ingenuity and contrivance. Most of the Sarkese

now manufacture their own lobster pots, boats, and various articles necessary for use ; so that speaking of those who maintain in part the ancient *régime*, their list of wants beyond their own supplies consists merely of hats, leather, a little drapery, and spirits and tobacco. Under this system it is scarcely possible but that an accumulation of money should take place, and with small beginnings a large amount be realized in the course of a long life. The Sarkese certainly love money even to a fault ; but the desire of acquisition is somewhat singular, as the possession leads to no political power, no advancement in life, no mental improvement or amelioration of the social condition. Wealth also has been amassed with all the appearance of poverty : it begets no proper pride, and fosters none of the higher sentiments ; in fact, its utility being but very little known, it remained dormant. But the rays of civilization having reached this corner of the state, that arch enemy to improvement, prejudice, will in due time be trampled upon and destroyed.

The population of Sark, by the census of the year 1841, was 797, inhabiting 139 houses,—of whom about 700 may be reckoned as natives, comprising only twenty-one different names or families, who are all connected with each other,—the English residents, miners, and summer visitors fluctuating from 100 to 200 in addition.

It appears that forty years ago the natives of



Sark were the same, or nearly so, in their habits as their ancestors, and that their customs, usages, and prejudices had till that period been handed down unchanged, and consequently unimproved, from father to son, for many centuries. Now, however, although their manners are formed after the model of their progenitors, there are visible signs of improvement.

The civil affairs of Sark are conducted in a very simple manner. The lord is chief magistrate, who appoints under him for the administration of justice a *sénéchal* or judge, a *prévôt* or sheriff, a *greffier* or registrar, two constables, and two overseers of the parish : these are the chief officers, who hold frequent courts for the settlement of petty disputes and offences ; but Sark being in the bailiwick of Guernsey, all criminal causes, and all cases of litigation, are referred to the Royal Court there, where also an appeal may be made against the decision of the Court of Sark. Honesty, whether considered as "the best policy," or from principle, is universally practised here ; instances of theft very rarely occur, and one may sleep in Sark as securely as if surrounded by police. The prison or cage is rarely tenanted ; banishment from the island and its privileges is the most severe sentence awarded ; now and then, to avoid trial, this has been self-inflicted by the guilty party. The Chief Pleas Court is held once a year for the consideration and arrange-

ment of all matters connected with taxation and parochial affairs, and resembles somewhat in miniature the upper house of Parliament. The *Seigneur* and the forty *Sieurs* attend and vote; their decisions are carried by majority, and are subject to the veto of the *Seigneur*. These courts and the parish meetings are held in the boys' national school-room: all the proceedings are in French.

The insular dialect—probably an antiquated form of that of the mother-island, Jersey—of course differs widely from the written language of modern France. Academicians have declared Villehardouin's prose to be no longer French, notwithstanding the relative purity of its obsolete Champenois phraseology, as if the language of the nineteenth century were the undeviating model instead of the perverted copy! None, however, but those who have mastered the early remains of Walloon and Norman-French literature, and compared them with the vernacular speech of the *Arrondissement de la Hague* and the adjacent isles, analyzing each glossary with philological rigour and impartiality, can be expected to form a true conception of the merits and defects of the Low-Norman French which is still spoken in Sark. Hence the contradictory statements of many an English resident, as well as a reverend visitor from Guernsey intimately conversant with the two 'jargons,' if such they be. According to the former—possibly unac-

quainted with a refined French 'far removed' from its Latin and Teutonic fountain-heads—the Sark *patois* is 'inarticulate and guttural;' while, according to the latter, it is 'the softest' of all the outre-Manche dialects, notwithstanding the true Gaelic or Gallican, and (we might venture to add) Hibernian peculiarity of its tone. It is true that those who have been out of the island speak better French: these observations, therefore, apply to those persons who have never gone further than St. Peter-Port.

Sark forms one of the twelve parishes constituting the deanery of Guernsey, in the diocese of Winchester. The Bishop makes his triennial visit here: on the 12th of August, 1843, he confirmed about forty young persons in Sark. The arrival of the Bishop and suite, who are entertained at the *Seigneurie*, causes an unusual stir in the island.

The church was commenced by P. Le Pelley, esq., father of the present lord, who died previous to its completion, and was finished by his eldest son, the late lord, Peter Le Pelley, in the year 1820. The funds were raised by a grant of £400 from the Church Building Society, a donation from the late lord, and the sale of the pews. It will hold three hundred and forty persons; eighty free seats for men—the same for women. The Rev. J. L. V. Cachemaille is the incumbent minister. Some of the deceased ministers of Sark have been interred in the

cemetery, but no stone marks their graves : the long grass or age may have obliterated them, if any were ever put down.

In 1827, the late lord endowed a school on the National system, for boys, who are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic by a master, at a salary of £30 per annum. The funds were raised by a grant from the Church Education Society, a donation from the late lord, and endowed by the surplus of the money raised by the *impôt*, after deducting the expenses of the pier. Mr. William Roberts is the present master ; he is also *greffier*. The girls' school was built by the present lord, Ernest Le Pelley, in conformity with the will of his brother, who left £1,000 for the building and endowing of the same. There is likewise a Sunday school, formerly supported by subscription, now maintained entirely at the expense of the present lord.\*

The first pier was erected by the father of the present lord ; but, it having been destroyed in a storm, it was rebuilt by Peter Le Pelley, his eldest son—the requisite funds being raised by means of an *impôt* on spirits, which terminates in 1845.

The weights and measures are the same as at Guernsey ; but often the rounded shingle, so

\* By the death of the amiable lady of the *seigneur*, Ernest Le Pelley, esq., on the 2d January, 1845, the Sunday Schools and the island in general have lost a zealous friend and active benefactress.

beautifully polished, supply the place of those of metal, and doubtless are equally correct.

It seems, as if from a motive of policy, that the *Seigneur* gives no encouragement to the building of houses, in order that the population may not extend beyond a certain ratio.\* No person is at liberty to build without his consent in any field separate from or unconnected with the farm, though the present houses may be enlarged and improved as the owner thinks fit; but as by law one only of, perhaps, a numerous family inherits all, money is not very frequently expended for that purpose,—and, consequently, many of the houses have fallen into a grievous state of decay. The present sheriff, Mr. Godfray, is setting before his neighbours a good example in improving his property, and rendering his houses really comfortable residences. It does not appear that any law would hinder speculators from renting ground, and fixing iron or wooden houses thereon, such as are used in the new settlements, for the temporary accommodation of tourists in the summer. A row of good lodging houses would certainly fill, as the island is very deficient in such apartments as are suitable to those accustomed to every comfort around them: there would be a greater

\* It has been suggested by some intelligent visitors that the granting of building leases, of long date, on certain portions of the seigneurial estate on which it is legal to do so, namely, near the church, would create a most valuable property, and confer permanent prosperity on the island.

influx of company, and consequently a larger proportion of money spent here. But this will not take place till a new *régime* is adopted—till the hidden treasures of Sark have been explored—when the wants of the community will increase, and commerce shall unfurl her flag in the harbours of Sark !

All places have their characteristics, and in Sark retirement and tranquillity are the leading features. “*Insula in Insula*” is the motto ; so that no stranger need fear interruption from any source, who is not desirous of society ; for, when the island is full, it is remarked how very little parties come in contact with each other, —every one being left to his own resources to amuse himself as he can. Superficial minds, indeed, may find pleasure only in those places to which people resort merely *to see and be seen* ; but how frequently do such scenes afford nothing but languor and disgust—how frequently do they fill the fairest bosoms with spleen, and the most refined minds with disappointment ! The tranquillity of retired life, and the view of rural scenes, tend to produce a quietude and contentment of disposition ; hence must arise that extreme attachment to their island-homes evinced by those families who are located in Sark. We have observed, in a former part of this little work, that the peculiar peacefulness and retirement of the place is well suited for abstract study or works of genius. A

mind disposed to philosophy or flights of poetic imagination should be freed from the trammels of society, as well as the embarrassment arising from the little domestic disturbances of children, servants, or visitors : an author should be free to follow every impulse of his mind, and every turn of his genius, in order to compose with success. The greatest philosophers and most accomplished writers have always, at intervals, torn themselves from the world, and made in retirement those powerful efforts producing the most brilliant flow of thought, which are lost when they mingle with the crowd in the busy walks of life.

Strangers are surprised to find that the characteristic industry of the natives of Sark has ever excluded them from having any public sports or games, such as bowls, cricket, wrestling, or rowing matches, as might be expected where there are so many young and strong men. Neither is there ever a band or a hand organ, any dancing, or even old-fashioned Punch, so common in almost every village in England and France. The sports of the Sarkese are confined principally to shooting rabbits and fishing ; but they do not understand the English acceptation of the word *sport* when the game is worthless. On St. John's day there is some show of a rural *fête*, and the *Coupée* road is rendered more animated from the young women galloping to and fro on their straw pads, which serve for saddles.

The Sarkese have singular notions about the fairy's pipes, as also of small round stones with holes in the centre ; these having been found in the earth, their conjecture is that fairies once inhabited the island, or at any rate a lilliputian race, as supposed from the minuteness of their pipes and wheels : there is, however, very little tradition or legend handed down amongst them. It is worthy of remark that no crimes, such as murder, suicide, &c., have been committed in Sark : the people have been, and are, remarkably free from being even partially infected with the vices incidental to human nature in general.

There is a very singular decree in the island against the importation of any but male dogs ; the origin of this was to prevent the worrying of sheep when the lands were more open,—and it was agreed by the *sieurs* to allow each farmer one male dog only.

There is at this time no game in Sark, although Heylin states that in 1560 there were fallow-deer. On a continuance of easterly winds woodcocks and snipes come over from France : occasionally there are large flights of plovers and fieldfares in their migratory course northward. No moles are to be seen, nor any glow-worms, or venomous reptiles. Amongst other little matters of curiosity found in Sark may be named the *apis centuncularis*, the carpenter or mason-bee, remarkable for its faculty of forming long, tabular, and slightly flexuose cavities



in wood, even of the most solid kind, such as oak, &c. These spaces are lined with rose leaves, the bottom of each space being formed by several circular pieces of these leaves placed immediately over each other a sufficient thickness. The bee then deposits an egg at the bottom, and having left a sufficient quantity of honey for the nourishment of the young larvæ, proceeds to close the top with rose leaves. In default of rose leaves the cavities are sometimes lined with the leaves of elm.

Gulls and other sea-birds are very numerous, and the shelves of the dark and sable rocks may be seen covered with them, appearing like flakes of snow; whilst whole lines of cormorants, drawn up as it were in battle array, range themselves on the lower verges.

“And where the fractured mountains lift  
O’er the blue wave their towering crest,  
Each salient ledge, and hollow cleft,  
To sea-fowl gives a rugged nest.”

In the gathering of the storm, the sea-birds give notice of the approaching elemental strife by a peculiar cry and mode of flight; and the islander knows full well these portentous signs.

“When crying cormorants forsake the sea,  
And, stretching to the covert, wing their way;  
When sportful coots run skimming o’er the strand,  
When watchful herons leave their wat’ry stand,  
And, mounting upward with erected flight,  
Gain on the skies, and soar above the sight.”

DRYDEN.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### CLIMATE, LONGEVITY, DISEASES.

ALTHOUGH in the immediate vicinity of Jersey and Guernsey, Sark is considered to possess a climate somewhat different; and for this reason many invalids from either place resort hither for a change of air, especially in the summer season. Being at a higher elevation, the atmosphere is drier, and there is more sea-breeze, which tends to depress the temperature in sultry weather; consequently, it is more bracing and exhilarating to the spirits. In the sheltered spots of the island, the winter passes almost without cognizance,—and when frost breaks in upon us it may be looked upon as an unexpected visitor whose stay is brief—commonly but a few hours, rarely many days; but by the continuance of an easterly wind it might remain longer, as the continent is so near on that point. We freeze, therefore, by borrowed frost, the frequent invasion of which is prevented by the barrier of saline vapour around.

Equability of the seasons is characteristic of the thermometric scale, and doubtless conduces to the health and the longevity of the natives

of Sark.\* With but few sources of irritation to the mind and body, with daily exercise, and the addition of the three great *pabula vitæ*—mildly nutritious diet, pure water, and a purified atmosphere—there is no reason why a person

\* The following Statistic Table of the weather was communicated by Mr. Alfred Burlingham, of the vale of Evesham, in Gloucestershire, one of the most sheltered and mild localities in England, and taken during two of the most severe months in the winter of 1842-43:—

DECEMBER.			JANUARY.		
Day.	EVESHAM. Degrees.	SARK. Degrees.	Day.	EVESHAM. Degrees.	SARK. Degrees.
1.....	0.....	52	1.....	36.....	43
2.....	0.....	51½	2.....	36½.....	42
3.....	0.....	50½	3.....	21½.....	37½
4.....	0.....	47	4.....	43½.....	47
5.....	0.....	46	5.....	38.....	47½
6.....	41.....	46½	6.....	34½.....	45
7.....	40.....	45½	7.....	49.....	47½
8.....	35½.....	47	8.....	36½.....	45
9.....	35.....	42	9.....	32.....	40½
10.....	38.....	41½	10.....	35.....	42½
11.....	36½.....	47	11.....	33.....	43½
12.....	52.....	53½	12.....	29.....	42½
13.....	53½.....	50½	13.....	29.....	45
14.....	48.....	48½	14.....	26.....	42½
15.....	46½.....	49	15.....	29.....	39
16.....	53.....	52½	16.....	34.....	42½
17.....	42.....	52	17.....	32.....	42½
18.....	41.....	47	18.....	44.....	48
19.....	36.....	46½	19.....	41.....	45
20.....	47.....	49	20.....	41.....	42
21.....	46½.....	50½	21.....	33½.....	40
22.....	47½.....	49½	22.....	43.....	0
23.....	42.....	49½	23.....	40½.....	42½
24.....	34.....	42	24.....	0.....	48
25.....	38.....	44½	25.....	40½.....	46
26.....	49.....	47	26.....	47.....	48
27.....	45.....	43½	27.....	48.....	50½
28.....	30.....	41½	28.....	51.....	51½
29.....	47.....	48	29.....	52½.....	50
30.....	50.....	50½	30.....	51.....	50
31.....	55.....	49	31.....	45.....	48
Mean.. 00·0		Mean.. 47·7	Mean.. 38½		Mean.. 44·8

with hereditary healthy organs should not protract his life to a truly patriarchal age, as certainly as any chronometer might continue its movements for the like period. Such circumstances must constitute the grand secret of longevity ; but how few there are who follow up any prescribed rules, when not induced to do so through interest or necessity ! In this island a person is entirely free and unrestrained by fashion, or the observation of others ; whether high or low, he may work in his own field or garden without reproach,—can, if he please, dine at noon, and both retire and rise at an early hour ; in a word, he may follow the simple dictates of nature in his occupations and amusements. It would surprise the world to know the long catalogue of diseases which simple diet, exercise, and tranquillity are calculated to prevent. Irritation of the mind or body is known to be a dread destroyer of the human race, but with the foregoing prophylactics even the consequences of excess are kept at bay ; in proof of which some of the natives, who are habitual spirit drinkers, have attained a very advanced age. Similar instances are not unfrequent in other places amongst that class of persons who take powerful exercise in the open air,—also amongst the gross feeders and spirit drinkers of Russia, and the opium eaters of Turkey ; but it must be recollected that what to one person would be destruction, to another

would be temperance : this is true also in regard to mental excitements, dependent of course on peculiar temperaments of body, naturally or by long habits induced. The great advantage, therefore, to be derived from residence in such a retreat is, by unbending the bow to re-invigorate the nerves shattered and debilitated by excitation, and thus allowing nature a chance of the restoration of long-lost muscular power. Invalids must content themselves to barter a few of their refinements and luxuries for health, which, alone, gives the capacity for enjoying them.

“Behold the labourer of the glebe who toils  
In dust and rain —————

————— yet him nor midnight fogs  
Infest, nor those envenom'd shafts that fly  
When rabid Sirius fires th' autumnal noon.  
Robust with labour, and by custom steel'd  
To every casualty of varied life,  
Serene he bears the peevish eastern blast,  
And uninfected breathes the mortal south.”

DR. ARMSTRONG.

The system of discipline, or training of the body, was considered of great importance by the early physicians, comprehending diet, air, exercise, bathing, and even hardships, as practised by the youth in the days of Cyrus, according to Xenophon ; and even the luxurious Romans subjected themselves to a certain *régime* in their Gymnasia, preparatory to the athletic exhibitions in the Olympic games. Of late years, gymnastics have been more attended to in health for pedestrianism—as a restorative

from debility—in military training—as also in many public schools, for the development of power and figure in our youth. As respects condition, persons in general may be said seldom or ever to enjoy or even contemplate the sensations of perfect health from youth up to age,—by which is meant the pleasurable and buoyant feelings of a *trained* person. “at the top of his condition;” but as they are preternatural, they are not enduring, and resemble somewhat the sensations arising from breathing oxygenated air on a summer morning, when the exercise of the newly-acquired faculties affords the highest pitch of animal enjoyment, the reverse of valetudinarian languor and *ennui*. By the combined action of the energies of the mind and body, a different effect from that of gymnastics alone is produced. Hilly and mountainous countries have often been selected to increase the powers of respiration, and thereby the renovation of the whole nervous system, by ascending and descending steepes. Brace up the nerves and muscles of a timid valetudinarian by a gentle and systematic course of exercise on the hills, and he will gradually become more bold and energetic,—his breathing will be more deep and strong, and he will be able to support a continued degree of exertion with pleasure; whereas, before, it was fatiguing and painful.

Having glanced at the causes of health, it is

necessary to touch briefly upon the subject of disease; and as a pure atmosphere is essential to the former, so also is it a preventive against the latter, not only through the vigour which it inspires to resist contagion, but as not containing that germ from which contagion springs. The strong and constant breeze must necessarily dissipate, or render innocuous by dilution, many contagious diseases ere they arrive at this island; and then its qualities may be antiseptic from the saline matter floating therein,—or it may be charged with a minute portion of iodine or chlorine from the sea-weed surrounding the shore, and the quantity used as fuel and manure throughout the island. These subtle substances so minutely divided may be absorbed homœopathically into the blood, acting thereby either as an alterative on that fluid, or fortifying the nervous system to resist the influence of malaria and infectious diseases. During the prevalence of epidemics, this island has escaped miraculously. In the year 1832, when Indian cholera prevailed so fatally, there were in Jersey 341 deaths out of 787 cases,—and in Guernsey 100 persons were carried off; but not a case occurred in Sark, which speaks much for the insulation of its atmosphere. Contagious diseases do, nevertheless, sometimes find their way here, small-pox having, a few years since, prevailed extensively. This might be expected where so many needed the protecting influence of vacci-

nation, against which the Sarkese ancestry appear to have had a strong prejudice. In proof of the insulation of cases, from the isolatory system adopted here, may be mentioned a very severe case of small-pox brought from England in September, 1843, from which only one child (a sister) took the disease, and that in a milder form. The immediate vaccination of another sister protected her from contagion, although she slept in the same bed; and no other case appeared in the island. Another confirmatory fact may be adduced in an instance of typhus fever, in the last stage, imported from Jersey, which was placed by the parish authorities to be nursed in the most airy situation, quite distinct from any other house. After the decease of this woman, five branches of the family were infected *seriatim*, which proved severe cases; and, although in the midst of this nest of contagion, the father and two children (who certainly had some slight premonitory symptoms), by keeping out in the fresh air as much as possible, eventually escaped the infectious disease. But an instinctive dread of contagion amongst the Sarkese leads to the strictest quarantine: so that no other person fell sick of the malady. It is worth notice that many epidemics do not ordinarily visit Sark, although they may prevail in Jersey and Guernsey; and when they do, it is not probable they would spread extensively, the houses being by law separated widely apart.



There is no particular malady prevalent here, except it be diseases of the teeth and gums. Rheumatism, influenza, and bronchial affections occasionally prevail, and a species of small carbuncle, or rather boil, is much more common than in England. Amongst those who work in the mines the latter is of more frequent occurrence, the mundic water taking effect on the slightest injury. Mental diseases are not frequent, and when they occur they are chiefly of a hypochondriac type. Pulmonary consumption rarely originates here; but no latitude is quite free from this form of scrophula or hereditary disease. Dyspepsia, the parent of many other diseases, is rare; and the water being pure, calculous affections are not frequent, although sour cider is the ordinary beverage. Upon the whole, the natives are but rarely afflicted with internal inflammation, as is exemplified by the following list of fatal cases during two years and a half, from January, 1842, to June, 1844.

1842—Widow H. . . . . Ætat 78.. Apoplexy.

John L. F. . . . . „ 70.. Serous Apoplexy.

Henry D. . . . . „ 70.. Mortification of Arm.

T. V.'s child. . . . „ 8.. Extensive Burn.

The other deaths were infants, or old persons, who had no treatment, and one drowned.

1843—Mary F. . . . . Ætat 30.. Typhus Fever.

Widow D. C. . . . „ 78.. Apoplexy.

Widow B. . . . . „ 68.. Abdominal Tumour.

1844—Mrs. M. G. . . . „ 33.. Pulm. Consumption.

Abraham B. . . . „ 87.. Disease of the Heart.

To illustrate more clearly and powerfully the general health and longevity of the natives of Sark, the reader is referred to the following Table of Mortality, during the ten years between 1831 and 1841, as appears by a careful research of the Parish Register, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Cachemaille :—

Under 2 years of age .....	33 deaths.
From 2 to 14 .....	8    "
From 14 to 24 .....	11   "
From 24 to 60 .....	5    "
From 60 to 70 .....	9    "
From 70 to 80 .....	15   "
From 80 to 90 .....	13   "
From 90 to 100 .....	1    "
<hr/>	
Total.....	95

This list does not include visitors or strangers, and nine are deducted as being drowned. It is here shown that more than one-half die under age ; and it is remarkable how few have died after passing that period, and that the number of aged persons is nearly one-third of the whole population.

The average mortality during the last forty years has been seven and a half per annum, but it has varied very remarkably. In 1801, about four and a quarter per cent. died ; in 1807, three and one-third per cent. ; in 1837, two per cent. ; in 1843, three-quarters per cent. (or five per annum, population 750). Take another method, by selecting three years of the highest mortality in the first and last ten years of the

present century : the deaths in the former are thirty-one ; and, in the latter, only thirty-two, with a double population. In a recent publication it is stated that "no death occurred in Sark during *five years*,"—by which one might imagine that the grim tyrant had forgotten his annual visits to this lonely spot ; such, however, is not the case, as there is but one year, 1816, in which *no* death occurred, and in 1811 and in 1820 there was only one death ; but in both the latter instances they were preceded by years of double the average mortality, namely, 1801 and 1810 having each eleven deaths, population from 250 to 300, and in 1819 ten deaths, the population about 450.

For those interested in statistic enquiries is added the number of aged persons living at the present period (1844) in Sark, out of a *native* population of 700.

From 60 to 70 years of age.....	34 persons.
From 70 to 80 .....	30   ,,
From 80 to 85 .....	9   ,,
From 85 to 90 .....	2   ,,
From 90 to 95 .....	1   ,,

Of this list forty-two are above seventy—nineteen males, and twenty-three females. Their possession of bodily strength and perfect faculties at so late a period is more remarkable than their longevity,—most of them, at seventy or eighty years of age, having the capability of doing a day's work in the fields.

The non-residence of a medical practitioner

in Sark has been cited by some writers as a proof of the salubrity of the island, and it is certainly clear evidence of the generally healthy condition of the native families ; but it is no proof that many have not remained a long time in pain and suffering, and died without medical aid in accouchements, or from accidents, or fever, as the amount of mortality in certain years during the present century seems to indicate : indeed, many such instances are within the memory of those now living. It is not surprising, amongst a people so isolated, that certain prejudices should be maintained as heir looms from their ancestors, and these more especially directed against medical science ; but the *badinage* which some writers have indulged in, at the expense of the profession, respecting the non-necessity of M.D.'s in Sark, is somewhat ridiculous, and the best method of reply is by a reference to the following statistic facts carefully collected, viz. :—

Four years, from 1807—deaths, 33—population, 300,

Four years, from 1840—deaths, 33—population, 750,

(of which latter six were drowned). The early period here alluded to is selected specially when there was but little admixture with strangers, and the natives were in a more primitive condition. They scarcely ever called in medical aid until the case became hopeless, and very seldom then. Thus, seeing that medicine was of so little avail, fatalism very naturally usurped

the place of reason,—simple diseases were allowed to acquire a dangerous ascendancy under the fostering influence of absurd applications,—and even now charms and cinctures are deemed very efficacious. A curious idea has prevailed for ages amongst the Channel Islanders, and is still maintained by some of the lower classes. In numerous instances they will describe a person as labouring under the "*côtés bas*," which is a notion they entertain that from accident or weakness the lower ribs drop down and become inverted; and that some old crone, or some seventh son of a seventh son (if aged and blind so much the better), is required to perform the operation by a requisite degree of pummelling and kneading the ribs with their gifted hands,—and in almost all cases, be the malady ever so far removed, it is supposed to arise from the "*côtés bas*!" The same superstition exists at the present day in Lower Brittany. When a peasant seeks his quack doctor, he says he goes to have his *côté relevé*.

Any inquiry into the cause of a sudden death is unusual. It ought to be engraved in the hearts of all the elder branches that they are virtually only the trustees of their families; and that, from the existing law of primogeniture, they are bound to provide the necessary comforts and attendance in sickness for their poorer relatives. Any omission of seeking for medical aid, in cases of dangerous illness, is therefore

suspicious, and to be reprobated. To suppose that the health of any community is so perfect as not to need the occasional aid of medicine is too glaring an absurdity to contemplate ; and, in a population of near 800 souls, epidemics and active cases must be of continual recurrence, requiring prompt and frequent attention which no *régime* could obviate, being engrafted in our nature, and from which, therefore, no human being can expect immunity.

In insular situations, and in remote regions where medicine and surgery are still in their primitive state, the self-taught professor is looked up to as if of a caste of superior order : the same observation may hold good in civilized society, where the achievements and success of scientific treatment are visible on a larger scale. It is in the transition from the one condition to the other that difficulty is experienced ; for instance, in the furtherance of vaccination, ventilation, drainage, and various surgical improvements. By these and other great triumphs of science, which render innocuous, or completely eradicate, the germs of disease, the public mind becomes gradually weaned from its ancient prejudices. To none more than the medical profession is the public indebted for a diminution of the general mortality by the valuable scientific suggestions which continually emanate from the faculty. Thus, in obviating the causes of disease, thousands of lives are saved.

But how greatly must the moral philosopher, who impartially views this interesting subject, be struck with the extraordinary versatility existing in the fashion of physic, as if nothing was ever established—nothing ever settled—in the science of medicine! Can we not quote a long list of systems, each acknowledged in its day, but now scarcely heard of? The Brunonian, Cullenian, and the Humoral doctrines are exploded as universal panaceas, although based on rational theories; and now the homœopathic, hydropathic, and the mesmeric fallacies find an ephemeral patronage among the over-credulous portion of the public. Fashion will sport with each and all of them till some other interesting professor alleges that he, and he only, has discovered the true philosopher's stone, which he offers to the world at large. Thus we see that extremes meet: among the ignorant we find a great degree of prejudice and folly, and among the high-born and highly-educated a vast share of credulity, forgetting that one panacea for "all the ills that flesh is heir to" is a philosophical impossibility. It is an acknowledged fact that the science of medicine has rapidly progressed during the present century, and the average mortality proportionally diminished.

## CHAPTER IX.

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### MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS.—EARTH- QUAKE, TIDES, &c.

It has been a source of great advantage to the world that in days of old certain persons lived the lives of monks or anchorites. Among this class have been many learned chroniclers and philosophers, whose labours and observations have enriched the archives of science or history, and transmitted to succeeding generations the detail of wonderful natural phenomena, as well as the great and remarkable events of this sublunary world. But in Sark we do not find that any documents have been preserved, any traditions carefully handed down from father to son, or the knowledge of any extraordinary celestial phenomenon occurring even during the last century. In conversing with the older natives, no recollection seems to be entertained—or, if any, but a very imperfect one—of the flaming comet of 1811, or of any eclipse or natural wonder which has at times agitated the whole of Europe, from one end to the other.

Earthquakes do not frequently visit these favoured islands. It is, therefore, worthy of



being known to mariners, it materially assists their passage to Guernsey even when the wind fails, and might at certain periods even supply its place.

The S.W. gales are most prevalent in these islands, and render the swell of the sea very considerable, especially on the day subsequent to a storm. It is supposed that by the continuance of this wind for eight or ten days the waters are backed up in the Channel and the German ocean both north and south, and when returning to an equilibrium add an auxiliary force to the retiring tide which again meets; and thus a swinging action takes place for one or two days, causing a heavy sea, which, rushing through these narrow channels in violent commotion over the shelves of rock beneath the surface, creates what may be called an overfall. These overfalls, so dangerous to small boats, and which have proved fatal in many instances, make the navigation around Sark extremely difficult and dangerous; in truth, an overfall is a sort of submarine Niagara of fearful extent, whose torrents first descending into the depths, and then ascending, cause the surface to rise like distinct hills or a boiling cauldron.

There are also some peculiar currents of wind which it may be worth while to notice. At a narrow part of Little Sark, near the *Coupée*, a whirlwind often uncaps the passenger if he has not made his bow at the *Coupée*. On descend-

ing the hollow, a strong reflex wind is perceptible in an opposite direction to that in which it is blowing : this frequently assumes the screw form, taking up fern and leaves, and sometimes directly downwards, which depends on the preponderance of one stream of wind over another, supposing there to be three streams of air, viz., one above the island, and two from its rocky sides, which, with an elevation of three hundred and fifty feet, would, it must be naturally inferred, bring up a volume and augment the force of the wind, against which it is difficult to stand from its frequent change of direction.

The luminous appearance of the sea is sometimes, though rarely, very brilliant, the spray breaking upon the rocks having the appearance of flames, and the surface of the ocean presenting a sheet of phosphorescence so striking that the credulous, on seeing it, might really believe the sea was on fire, and that the world was coming to an end !

The geometrical area of Sark is about three square miles ; and, from the nature of the soil, mines, fisheries, &c., three times the population might be well maintained. The plane of the island is a mere agricultural flat of no great interest to visitors, as they see better cultivation and buildings in every village in England. If it possesses any interest, it is the curious fact before detailed—that a community can be rendered stationary by partial laws ; and of such a

system Sark is a rare but perfect model. There is a border village in Scotland called Sark, near a river of that name, almost as celebrated for marriages as Gretna Green; whilst here, no new houses being permitted by law, an effectual check is put upon the increase of population. Excepting the eldest son, all the other members of a family are debarred from matrimony, from the want of means and the want of houses.

In writing the excursions, it has been omitted to notice that parties of pleasure may be made to see the island of Herm, for which purpose a cutter or a small boat may be engaged, taking a Sark fisherman to act as pilot. The principal attraction at Herm is the shell beach, which is an unmixed mass of shells, most of them very small, and considered of great utility by those whose ready ingenuity enables them to form models of fruit, flowers, &c., entirely of shells. At Mr. Naftel's repository, Commercial Arcade, Guernsey, may generally be seen beautiful specimens of this art. Herm possesses also what to Sark would be a great acquisition, namely, an extensive shore of sand on the north-eastern side. There are also some stone quarries. The mines have not been proceeded with; but the syenite, which is compact, has been exported largely for building purposes. Some traces of secondary strata have been discovered on the top of the gneiss rocks. This island was once a preserve for game, and it is said the horns of

the stag have been dug up in it. Lately, some further remains of a cemetery have been discovered; and urns and other relics have also been raised, which now enrich the unique museum of antiquities collected by F. C. Lukis, esq., of Guernsey. In Queen Anne's reign, the islands of Herm, Jethou, and Lihou, and the pond of the *Grande Mare*, were leased out on fee-farm rents. In the leases granted to them, a clause was inserted giving the inhabitants of Sark a right to go to Herm for the purpose of fishing, and to gather *vrec*, also to fetch building materials and other commodities.

Having carefully noticed all points connected with Sark as it is, we will now indulge ourselves with a peep into futurity, and fancy what Sark might or may be fifty years hence, according to the rising taste or circumstances of its inhabitants. Some of the following suggestions have been the result of the observation of intelligent visitors, and may be worthy of future consideration by the rising generation of this and also of the sister isles.

Sark may be made the pivot and common centre of *telegraphic* communication, for which the recent extraordinary improvements in telegraphs renders it peculiarly eligible;\* indeed,

\* Mr. W. H. James, civil engineer, London, patented a day and night telegraph, in 1835, to communicate, by means of fluids, air, light, &c., words and sentences as fast as written, actuated by piano-like keys, and capable of equal combinations. Others by galvanic agency have since been suggested.

from being so naturally defended by its granite walls, Sark seems capable of being made the Gibraltar of the Channel Islands. It is somewhat singular that during the civil wars no fortifications should have been raised in Sark, in order to maintain a garrison. The expense of rendering the natural defences of Sark almost impregnable would be small, as there are only five points requiring fortifications ; but without an adequate number of artillerymen no effectual resistance could be offered. In the event of a war with France, these islands, from their great increase of wealth and general commerce, would maintain a far more important and prominent position than during the wars of last century. Any expense, therefore, laid out in the fortifying of them, and encircling their coasts with war-steamers as sentinels, would only be a wise act on the part of England. Important benefits would result from a direct commercial communication with France and England, as, thereby, imports and manufactures would be promoted.

It appears that in the reign of James II. a trade in woollen articles was carried on at Sark, as two hundred tods of wool were granted annually for the use of the inhabitants. This is the only account of any manufacture ever being carried on in the island.

Freedom of commerce, with the various privileges and immunities so long enjoyed by these favoured isles, are the guarantees of their faith-

ful allegiance; and the most devoted loyalty to the British Crown has been, and will no doubt ever be, the proud and warmly enthusiastic boast of every Channel Islander.

The great key to all improvement is education. This would be materially promoted in Sark by a library and an elementary school of useful knowledge,—by the establishment of an adult class for instruction in both languages,—the occasional public exhibition of models, maps, &c., &c., and the formation of a choral society. Then there are certain improvements, affecting the public, which to the minds of many appear perfectly feasible, viz., the erection of a commodious hotel,—the establishment of a post-office, and a luggage depôt,—the enlargement of the houses, generally, to suit an increasing community,—the construction of wooden houses, which are legitimized, and might be fixed in beautiful situations for visitors,—the firing of a gun and hoisting a signal to announce the departure and arrival of cutters,—a fire-engine and a life-boat,—a car for the conveyance of passengers to and from the *Creux* harbour, as also for the excursion of invalids,—and a road to the bathing-beach of *Dixcart*. Next, as regards agriculture and commerce, might not the general welfare and prosperity of Sark be considerably augmented by the establishment of pottery works? From the immense quantity of porcelain clay found in the island, and which

on trial is found to harden and burn exceedingly well, it is obvious that the manufacture of common ware might be easily brought about, and would form a new source of riches to the proprietors. A good harbour at the *Eperquerie*, and the formation of a joint company of farmer exporters (who should possess a steam tug of common construction and good power for the conveyance of their exports), would indicate the wealth and prosperity of Sark; and may it be the lot of the rising generation to verify the prediction, that their beautiful and fertile little island will one day shine like a gem upon the ocean, surpassed, in size only, by the surrounding sister isles!

Upon some towering cliff of Sark's high range  
With eagle-eye I view the coming day;  
Wide o'er the hills of France the radiance glo  
And gilds the islands of St. Michael's bay.

Fair breaks the morn upon the Channel wave,  
In Winter's changing scene: the genial ray  
Of seeming Spring dispels the falling dew,  
To live its fleeting hour on dark December's day.

Jersey's rich vales, and Sarnia's fertile fields—  
Sark's frowning cliffs above the ocean blue—  
With distant Alderney but dimly seen—  
In panoramic grandeur rise to view.

Lands of the lily, pear and apple grove,  
Where Flora and Pomona spread their train  
Of fruits and flowers in gen'rous rivalry—  
Where commerce, freedom, peace, and plenty reign!

## CHAPTER X.

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### USEFUL HINTS FOR STRANGERS.

THE Postscript often forms an important part of a letter, the marrow of the communication being contained therein. The following hints are therefore given to smooth the passage of visitors to Sark, and to render their stay in it more agreeable : for, whether their object be pleasure, as fishing, rowing, or sailing ; or scientific pursuits, as geology, botany, &c. ; a knowledge that the physical wants will be supplied will render a voyage to the island far less formidable than heretofore.

The first step, then, is to look at the point of wind and state of weather, as most persons ordinarily do, otherwise they may meet with an unpleasant passage. Ladies may suffer from sea sickness, or be greatly fatigued in dead calms with contrary wind and tides, especially if no provisions are taken, as six, eight, or even ten hours have been required to cross ; but it is ordinarily done in one, two, or three hours. It is advisable, therefore, to start provided with sandwiches and biscuits ; and wine or brandy will be no bad store, as none are to be obtained within a mile of the harbour. This is to be



regretted, as many persons have arrived much exhausted and chilled, and not having an idea of such deficiency existing in any place.

It is also very proper that any large party, or persons of rank, should send over a servant to secure suitable accommodations and provide for their reception ; otherwise, should the season be full, it is possible they will be obliged either to return from the want of suitable accommodation, or to take up with what they can get. The north-east wind is considered a very favourable point, both to come and go, as the sea is generally smooth. The moderate north-west, of course, ensures a speedy passage ; but when the wind blows from the north, or east, the cutters sometimes land at *Havre Gosselin*, which is only about two-thirds the distance to the *Creux* harbour. In this case, however, the ascent is more difficult, and luggage must be carried up by hand. Fogs and squalls are also somewhat to be feared ; but from the great care and watchfulness of the captains, who always steer by compass, no accident has occurred to the cutters since their establishment, although in the winter season they are obliged to cross in rough and squally weather.

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**LODGINGS.**—We have already stated that the accommodation for visitors is very limited, and in some seasons inadequate to the numbers who have arrived, many having been under the

necessity of returning the same day, or *roughing it* rather more than would prove agreeable to some tastes. There are but few houses in the island which do not, in the summer, offer one, two, or more rooms; but it is well to intimate to the reader that he must not expect to find in any of them the least similarity to such as he may be accustomed to meet with in the frequented watering-places in England. Honesty and civility will, however, compensate in some degree for the want of many requisites during a stay of only two or three days, when the time is almost entirely engrossed in rambling amid the rock scenery. The cold pic-nic repast may be enjoyed with perhaps a sweeter relish, laid out on some flowery slope, or spread on a table of rock in one of the lovely bays; but this, of course, is a matter of taste with the parties concerned. Those who are not very particular in their requirements will have no difficulty in finding beds, with a plentiful supply of eggs and bacon, and the general simple diet of the island. Visitors have sometimes been very inappropriately lodged, and have in consequence made a hasty exit, carrying away with them an impression extremely detrimental to the hospitality of Sark, and to the degree of comfort which might be found in it. It is therefore advisable for persons to look around, and make their own choice of apartments, before they finally locate themselves. By the aid of the

map, and the subjoined list, this may be effected without much difficulty. The surgeon may be said to occupy a public position in the island; and in the present scarcity of accommodation it is incumbent on him to do so. It is therefore recommended that strangers, more especially English tourists of rank, or elderly or invalid persons, should refer to him, personally or by letter, for any information, assistance, or accommodation they may require: if possible, he should always have in his own house two or three well furnished rooms for the reception of visitors, with good English board, and the attendance of servants. There are six or seven farmhouses which are let to families either by the week or month during summer, but without any board or attendance: these contain sitting room, kitchen, &c., and three or four bedrooms, and are very comfortable. The terms, including firing, are twenty-one shillings per week. The families do not occupy the same house, but remove to another on the premises. Parties coming over on a mere pic-nic excursion from Guernsey or Herm, and those taking advantage of the steamers' occasional summer trips to the island, who either bring refreshment or require it, may be supplied with what is necessary in a cheerful and airy apartment at the house of the Ordnance Storekeeper, at the *Vauroque*. But parties of more than two or three in number should bring a supply of provisions with them,

such as meat, pastry, vegetables and fruit, and choice wines.

The six distinct houses let to families are the following :—

<i>La Moinerie</i> . . . . .	Mr. ABRAHAM BAKER.
<i>Petit Dixcart</i> . . . . .	Mr. PHILIP BAKER.
<i>Le Port</i> . . . . .	Mr. THOMAS VAUDIN.
<i>Beauregard</i> . . . . .	Mr. MASSEY.
<i>Dixcart Valley</i> . . . . .	Mr. T. LE MASURIER.
<i>Little Sark</i> . . . . .	Mr. WILLIAM BAKER.

In addition to the above are the following houses and cottages, where one, two, or three rooms may be obtained, neatly and simply furnished :—

<i>In the Carrefour Road</i> . .	WILLIAM DE CARTERET.
<i>Do.</i> . . . .	.. HENRY LE FEUVRE.
<i>Do.</i> . . . .	.. FRANCIS BAKER.
<i>Do.</i> . . . .	.. PETER BAKER.
<i>La Pinnerie</i> . . . . .	PHILIP HOTTON.
<i>Do.</i> . . . .	JOHN GUILLE.
<i>La Vallette</i> . . . . .	PHILIP DE CARTERET.
<i>La Ville</i> . . . . .	Mrs. VAUDIN.
<i>Vauroque</i> . . . . .	WILLIAM HYNES.
<i>Do.</i> . . . .	THOMAS DE CARTERET.
<i>Near the Windmill</i> . . . .	HENRY DRILLOT.
<i>Frégondée</i> . . . . .	PETER DE CARTERET.

PROVISIONS.—Next in progression is the victualling department. There are three shops in Sark, where all articles of general consumption may be procured ; one is situated near the *Collinette*, one at the *Pinnerie*, and the other at the *Vauroque*. At the latter place draught porter and beer can be obtained ; and poultry,

eggs, butter, and occasionally mutton, of almost all the inhabitants. Fish is generally plentiful—lobsters particularly in the season. Common brandy and good hollands may be had at the *Closajon*, a public-house near the Church.

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**HORSES.**—Horses may be obtained for ladies or invalids, by enquiry at some of the farm-houses, on reasonable terms.

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**BOATS.**—As boating excursions are recommended, in order to be able to visit the caverns and inaccessible bays, a fisherman's boat should be engaged the evening previous,—otherwise they may be engaged on their farms or at sea. It should be a strong boat, of not less than twelve feet keel, well ballasted, which may be hired, with Sarkmen, for five or six shillings, or less, according to the time engaged : this is the only method of seeing the inaccessible bays and caves not before enumerated,—such as the *Pointe du Nez* ; pinnacle rocks near the *Boutiques* ; two bays near the *Port du Moulin* ; *Port à la Jument* ; caves in the *Moie de Mouton* ; caverns under the West Downs ; *Port-ès-Sées* ; *Port Gorey*, near the mines and ravines ; *Le Tas* rock ; bay in the *Pot* ; *Pointe Terrible* ; *Creux Terrible*, *Bréchou*, &c.

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**UNFREQUENTED WALKS.**—Solitude being a leading feature of the island, it has gradually

become engraven in the habits and character of the islanders, so that even their social system is tinged by it,—the etiquette observed in other places being modified to a great degree here. As many visitors come to Sark for the express purpose of hermitizing, the following list of unfrequented walks may be found convenient, where, without any descent to the shore, not a house or human being is often to be seen, (save perhaps an old furze-cutter,) and yet embracing many objects of interest not ordinarily noticed in a visit to Sark :—

1. The valley near *Port-ès-Sées* and West Downs, as far as the *Moie de Mouton*.

2. From the *Port* to the drilling-ground and *Pointe du Nez*.

3. From *Dixcart* bay, across *Pointe du Château*, to the *Creux Terrible* and the Eastern Downs, above the *Creux* harbour.

4. From *Creux* harbour to the road near *La Ville, La Vallette, &c.*

5. By the cliff pathways, from the *Coupée*, all round Little Sark.

And many other routes by which houses are avoided to suit the taste and imagination of the tourist, who, like the inimitable writer of the following stanza, loves

“To sit on rocks, to muse o’er flood and fell,  
To slowly trace the forest’s shady scene,  
Where things that own not man’s dominion dwell,  
And mortal foot hath ne’er, or rarely been ;  
To climb the trackless mountain all unseen,  
With the wild flock that never needs a fold ;  
Alone o’er steepes and foaming falls to lean ;  
Converse with Nature’s charms, and view her stores unrolled.”

## DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

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Map.....	to face chap. I.
Le Creux (the Harbour).....	page 25
Archway at Le Creux.....	32
La Coupée.....	35
Sections and Elevation of the Coupée.....	36
Les Aûtelets.....	52
Port du Moulin.....	67

## APPENDIX.

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### ROMAN AND VISIGOTHIC INSULAR COINS.

(See page 12.)

IN this small department of research, the Norman Isles ought to be considered as an indivisible group. Native antiquarians, let us humbly suggest, might have supplied, from authentic record and private collections, a *less incomplete* list of the few ancient medals left there by visitors of old, who fought, robbed, or traded, on a soil where less formidable pilgrims, of another race, fished, fasted, prayed, preached, and sweetly psalmodised, amid the ruins of druidical cromlechs and rocking stones.

Although coins usually bear "the image and superscription" of him whose they were, it is sometimes no easy matter to identify the historical personage whose features they represent.

Our series extends from CALIGULA (Caligula) to the days of HONORIUS. 1, CALIGULA; 2, CLAUDIUS; 3, COMMODUS; 4, GORDIANUS FILIUS; 5, DECIUS; 6, VALERIANUS; 7, POSTHUMIUS; 8, AURELIANUS; 9, PROBUS; 10, probably ATEULF, king of the Visigoths in Gaul and Spain; 11, a Knight of the Crepusian family; and 12, a specimen of the mint of CATOLUCA (conjectured, on insufficient grounds we admit, to have been *Catuliacus Vicus*, now *Cadillac*, in the Visigothic kingdom, 15 miles S.S.E. of Bordeaux). From actual observation we can state that 1, 4, 5, 6, were dug up, with several others, in a field at St. Pierre-du-Bois;\*

\* Found there by a husbandman, who sold them to the present Bailiff of Guernsey's grandfather.



the late Sir John Jeremie is the authority for 8 and 9; **COMMODOUS** and **POSTHUMIUS** are Jersey coins of third brass; and **CLAUDIUS**, the feeble emperor, who "*penitus abolevit Druidarum immanem religionem*," is said, by Cruttwell's informant, to have been picked up on the floor of a cromlech on St. Helier's hill.

The gold coins 10 and 12 appear to be Visigothic: 18 of them were found "in an earthen pot bound with an iron hoop" in Queen Elizabeth's time, and in the small island of Sark. They were engraved by Vertue in 1725.\* The workmanship of these coins is extremely rude. Still, in spite of the royal brute's awkwardly shaped neck, the examiner of Vertue's scarce work will probably recognise an ill-traced lion, the badge of the Visigothic dynasty. **ATEULF**, or **ATAULF**, founded a kingdom, whose capital, on this side of the Pyrenees, was Narbonne—on the other, Barcelona.

The diffidence with which the writer has ventured to make the most of Gough's statement will be understood by any one at all conversant with the difficulties of the subject. Father Germon confirms the French historian Daniel's assertion, that the sons of Clovis were the first princes of their race who enjoyed, by a special grant from the Emperor Justinian, the privilege of coining money:† this is the reason why, among the numerous gold coins of the Merovingian family still extant, none of the royal patriarch are to be found. The discovery of this small hoard of presumed Visigothic gold, issued almost a century before the final conquest of Gaul—since **ATAULF** died in 415—is rendered interesting by the remarkable circumstance of its being unmixed with Frankish money of a later date. It would seem as if a detachment of the Visigothic army had garrisoned, at least visited, the picturesque islet of Sark in the reign of Alaric's brother-in-law, or some of his early succes-

\* Gough's Camden. Gough mistook **ATEULF** for **ATILA**.

† Germon, *sur les Médailles des Rois de la Première Race. Histoire de France, par Daniel, tome 23, page 79.*

sors, ere these marauding Therfingers\* from Moldavia, Walachia, and the lakes and bogs of Hungary, were dislodged from their rocky citadel by Frisian or Frankish pirates.

From the various monuments of druidic barbarism which are still found in different localities in this group of islands, it may be fairly conjectured that they were inhabited at a period prior to the Roman invasion : but this doubt must be laid aside if the existing remains of a far more remote period are considered. Here we behold the *rude sepulchres* of an ancient race, whose habits and customs were of the same character as those of the earliest inhabitants of Europe ; and the vast accumulation of ashes found within as well as near the tombs or cromlechs of this ancient race denotes a length of time, and a more populous period, than is generally supposed. Sark was doubtless occupied at a very early period, as well as the islands in its vicinity. The remains of a stone circle at Little Sark—the quantity of fragments of pottery—several stone celts, known, as in Guernsey, by the name of *Coins de Foudre*—the stone disc, or amulet, called *Rouette des Fétoux*—all attest the fact. A large sized cromlech was said to be once standing on the plain near the church, which, according to some, was destroyed, and the remains thereof buried in the ground beneath : the truth of this might easily be put to the test. Many stone and earthen remains have been, and are still occasionally, dug up in the gardens belonging to the Parsonage.

The earth-works near the *Coupée* and at the *Eperquerie* are of a later date ; and from the quantity of earthen vessels and iron instruments discovered within their enclosures by Mr. Lukis, in 1839, there is ground for attributing their erection as recorded at page 19.

The large block of stone which is curiously placed on a prop or upright pillar on the coast of Little Sark, and

\* Jordanes calls these Nomadic Goths *Ther-fingers* ; in antiquated English, *Deer-fangers*, or venison-hunters.

erroneously supposed to have served, like the cromlech, for a place of sacrifice, contained nothing to identify it with the structures of the celtic race.

### HELERIUS (HELIER), THE MARTYR.

(See page 14.)

“ Il y avoit un saint homme qui résidoit à Jersey, lequel étoit célèbre par sa piété et l'austérité de sa vie ; il s'appeloit *Hélerius* (Héliér). Il avoit choisi une petite cellule écartée pour se retirer du monde, sur une roche proche du Château Elizabeth, qu'on voit encore aujourd'hui, qu'on appelle l'Hermitage. Ce saint homme fut tué, et sa mort fut accompagnée de circonstances qui lui acquirent la réputation de Martyr ; ce fut pour avoir donné des preuves évidentes de la foi qu'il avoit en Jésus-Christ, et pour avoir contredit leur idolâtrie grossière. Le Calendrier de l'Eglise de Coutances place la fête, ou le jour de son martyre, au 17<sup>me</sup> des calendes d'Août. Cet événement rendit l'île célèbre, et elle le devint encore davantage par après, lorsqu'un seigneur Normand, des descendans de ceux qui l'avoient mis à mort,\* y fonda en mémoire de son martyr une Abbaye, et l'appela de son nom (l'Abbaye de St. Héliér).”—*Vieux Chroniques*.

### REIGN OF EDWARD III.

(See page 17.)

“ On passe rapidement sur le règne d'Edouard Second pour arriver à celui d'Edouard Trois, qui nous fournit des événemens plus mémorables sur ces îles, par rapport

\* This statement concerning St. Helerius forms no part of the Jersey Chronicles, as it is translated from Falle, in an Appendix to the said Chronicles, by G. S. Syvret, Guernsey, 1832, page 118. There were no Normans in these seas in the year 558, when Héliér, the Westphalian hermit, a disciple of St. Marculphus, received the palm of martyrdom, on a Jersey rock, from the merciless wrath of a Saxon.—*Hermit Saints: a Legend of St. Héliér*, p. 31. *Acts of St. Marculf and of St. Héliér*; the latter translated by Missirien. *Additions aux Vies des Saints du Père Albert Le Grand*.

aux François. A peine le Roi Edouard Trois eut-il fait connoître ses prétentions sur la France, les armes à la main, que la guerre s'alluma entre Philippe de Vallois et lui. Les François, pour faire diversion, s'emparèrent de ces îles, et elles furent attaquées plus vivement qu'elles ne l'avoient encore été. Hugues Queriel, Amiral de France, fit une descente dans Guernesey l'an 1339, mit le siège devant le Château Cornet, le prit, et le garda trois ans, quoiqu'il fut réputé imprenable. Mais les François ne furent pas si heureux à Jersey; ils furent repoussés de devant le château de Mont Orgueil, mais ils ravagèrent le pays."

### SILVER-LEAD MINES.

(See page 68.)

At the beginning of the year 1844 the proprietors of the Sark silver-lead mines resolved to work them on a different principle to that before existing, namely, by what is commonly called *tribute*, the men taking certain portions of the lode or vein of metal at from 9s. to 14s. in the pound, or according to the quality of the vein; and it is gratifying to observe that a great and visible improvement has since taken place. A very rich vein of silver ore has also been discovered in the deepest part of the mine, which is eighty fathom below high-water mark. This part holds out highly-promising indications of great success. The pumps before in operation were not sufficiently large for the draining off of the water; therefore, for the more effectual working of the mine, great additions have been lately made to the machinery, viz., a steam chest and a complete set of pipes for the main engine, with steam and vacuum gauges, and a very powerful set of pumps for draining off the water from the lower levels; also a new set of steam pipes for the winch or winding-engine in connection with the boilers of the pumping-engine: this obviates the necessity of using the boilers of the winding-engine on slight occasions,—and, being always ready to work at a moment's

notice, it will effect a considerable saving in the consumption of coal.

From the present appearances there seems to exist a determination amongst the proprietors to explore fully these very interesting mines.—*Report of John Renfray, captain of the Sark silver mines, February 26, 1845.*

### ÎLE DES MARCHANDS, OR BRÉCHOU.

(See page 54.)

Taking a survey of the island with the eye of an engineer, Sark appears capable of three great improvements, viz. :—1st. A bathing-place on the *Coupée* or *Dixcart* sands, with a machine for easy descent to the shore. 2dly. A fishing village in *Bréchou*, to which a communication with the main land should be effected by means of a ferry, or a floating or suspension bridge, to ensure a passage in all weather. 3dly. The formation of a harbour in the bay called *Le Port*, where a small steamer or good cutter, or manumotive long-boat, might lie, to convey fish, letters, &c., to St. Peter-Port, at stated periods.

Thus the treeless islet of *Bréchou* would become by far the most important part of Sark, as it would become the high road to the *Port*; and as it contains the richest lodes of copper, the mines would be explored—houses built thereon to suit an increasing community,—and it would regain its ancient title of "*l'Île des Marchands.*" It is the only outlet where the increasing population of Great Sark may find profitable employment in the rich fisheries of mullet, turbot, and other fish, and of lobsters and other shell-fish, redundant on the rocky shores of this and the adjacent coast of Sark.

Beneath the surface of whose boiling floods  
Gigantic congers coil; the monster shark  
Lurks by the thickets of the ocean's woods,  
With eyes phosphoric in some cavern dark.  
The waters teem with life—the shelves abound  
With fish mail-clad; and ormer pearl sustain  
With nutrient weed, to fertilize the ground,  
Which else were barren as Arabia's plain.

## LAWS AND CUSTOMS.

(See page 77.)

The Sark law, respecting property, is peculiar but simple when known; it differs materially from the laws of the other isles, and it is requisite that every stranger purposing to buy an estate should first be well instructed in the matter,—to be exemplified in the following instances:—A. B. purchases an estate: at his death, if he dies without issue, the estate will go to his next brother; but should the latter die before his elder brother, leaving a son, the estate will not devolve to the nephew of the purchaser, but to the *third* brother or sister, supposing him to have such. If the purchaser of an estate wishes his wife to enjoy it after his death, the contract must be made out in their joint names.

Estates obtained by inheritance go from father to son, or, failing issue, to the nearest of kin, male or female. In purchasing an estate, a *treizième* of the purchase money goes to the Lord of the island.

[EMENDATION, page 77, line 12.—For “he must give notice of his intention within twenty-four hours after the sale, and within a year and a day therefrom, &c.,” read “he must give notice of his intention within a year and a day after the sale, and within twenty-four hours after obtaining a Rule of Court confirming his right to redeem the property, the purchase money must be paid down, &c.”]

## MEDICAL STATISTICS.

(See page 96.)

No case of epilepsy, chorea, mania, euteritis, or strangulated hernia, and only two of consumption, occurred during a period of three years.—Population, 750.

## OF THE TIDES.

(See page 105.)

On the authority of several pilots, the difference in the tides between Sark and Guernsey is but slight, and that is dependant on the point of wind. The Guernsey perpetual tide-table is therefore recommended to those about to visit Sark as the best means of ascertaining the proper time of crossing.

## FREEHOLDERS OF SARK (VOTERS).

(See page 81.)

The following is a list of the *Sieurs* of Sark, possessors of the forty freeholds :—

John Falle, esq.....	<i>Beauregard and Collinette.</i>
E. J. Gascoigne, esq.....	<i>Jaspellerie.</i>
<i>Sieurs</i> —Thomas Godfray .....	<i>Dixcart and Beauregard.</i>
„ Philip Tanquerel .....	<i>Val Creux, Port, &amp; Dixcart.</i>
„ Philip Baker .....	<i>Dixcart.</i>
„ Abraham Baker .....	<i>Moinerie.</i>
„ Thomas Le Masurier ..	<i>Dixcart.</i>
„ Thomas De Carteret. ..	<i>Tour.</i>
„ Thomas De Carteret. ..	<i>Vauroque.</i>
„ Thomas Vaudin .....	<i>Port.</i>
„ Elias Guille .....	<i>Fort and Vallette.</i>
„ Charles Guille.....	<i>Clos Bourel.</i>
„ Philip Guille .....	<i>Little Sark.</i>
„ Martin Guille .....	<i>Dos d'Ane.</i>
„ Philip Baker .....	<i>Little Sark.</i>
„ Hilary Baker.....	<i>Little Sark.</i>
„ John Hamon.....	<i>Little Sark.</i>
„ Nicholas Mollet.....	<i>Little Sark.</i>
„ Philip De Carteret. ....	<i>La Vallette.</i>
„ John Hamon.....	<i>Fort.</i>
„ John Le Feuvre. ....	<i>Fort.</i>
„ Peter Manger .....	<i>Rondellerie and Rade.</i>
„ Nicholas Le Masurier. ..	<i>Val Creux.</i>
„ William De Carteret... ..	<i>Rue du Cas and L'Ecluse.</i>
„ Philip Guille .....	<i>Carrefour.</i>
„ Elias Guille .....	<i>Ville.</i>
„ John Vaudin.....	<i>Ville.</i>
„ Thomas Drillot.....	<i>Ville.</i>
„ Philip Guille .....	<i>Ville.</i>
„ Henry De Carteret.....	<i>Forge.</i>
„ Henry Le Feuvre.....	<i>Carrefour.</i>

The remaining three are possessed by the Lord of the island. There are also ten other freeholders possessing no votes, supposed to have been created by some former *Seigneur* by the subdivision of original *sieurships*.









